QL684
.I3
M4
v. 21
no. 3
2012

Meadowlark

A JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS BIRDS

Volume 21, Number 3 2012

Publisher
Illinois Ornithological Society

President
Robert Fisher

Vice President
Urs Geiser

Treasurer
Alex Meloy

Recording Secretary
Denis Bohm

Membership Secretary
Barbara Williams

Chief Editor
Sheryl DeVore

Past President
Jenny Vogt

Board of Directors
Amar Ayyash
Tara Beveroth
Joan Bruchman
Josh Engel
Matt Fraker
Bob Fisher
Urs Geiser
Matt McKim-Louder
Barbara Williams

Associate Editors
Steven D. Bailey
Jeffery Walk

Photo Editor
Steven D. Bailey

Staff Illustrators
Peter Olson
Michael P. Retter
Barbara Williams

Pre-Press Production
Kathy Ade
TKAde@aol.com

Printing
CityWide Printing, Des Plaines, Illinois

President's Message

The Illinois Spring Bird Count

Where were you on May 6, 1972? That was the first (official) Spring Bird Count here in Illinois – though a 'trial run' count had actually been conducted almost a year earlier, on May 8th, 1971. From that beginning, the SBC goal has been to get birders to cover every one of the 102 counties in our great state, counting the migrants and the returning resident breeding species.

Ably coordinated by Vern Kleen over a substantial chunk of those 40 plus years (THANKS, VERN!), doing the Spring Count has been a fixture in the lives of many members of the Illinois birding community. Karen and I participated in our first Count in 1976 here in DuPage County; I was the driver and Karen tallied as we wound our way through the streets of Downers Grove, eventually recording just under 800 birds of 36 different species. Our highlight was two Gray-cheeked Thrushes! Looking backward with a somewhat jaundiced eye, I wonder if they weren't (just) Swainson's.

The SBC results provide powerful statistics on population trends by species, range changes over time, and a host of other useful information on the state of the birds here in Illinois – like the impressive increase in the numbers of Cooper's Hawks as they populate the suburbs and residential areas across the state, or the explosive growth of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (at one time a fairly rare SBC bird, especially in the northern half of Illinois, now seemingly everywhere there's suitable habitat for this diminutive woodland species). The data has also delineated the declines of three species once more common in Illinois than they are today: Ring-necked Pheasants (a victim of changes in agricultural practices, especially the elimination of hedgerows), Red-headed Woodpeckers, and Bewick's Wrens, a species disappearing from much of its range in the eastern USA.

Vern retired as statewide compiler after the 2009 SBC; Tara Beveroth, Avian Field Specialist for INHS and IOS Board member, took over for Vern in this important job, beginning in 2010. The transition has been very seamless, and the longstanding question of where and how to store the Illinois SBC database has been resolved. Implemented by Tara and her INHS colleagues, the entire database is being stored at the Midwest Avian Data Center: http://data.prbo.org/partners/mwadc/.

Stay tuned; complete public access to this 40+ year history is coming soon on the MADC website. And if you attended the recent Gull Frolic, you also heard from Tara about the other substantive change to the SBC. Beginning in 2013, two days in early May will be scheduled for the Count. It's always been a struggle to get coverage in all Illinois counties – the population center counties attract large numbers of birders, the rural counties get little, sometimes no coverage at all. By switching to the two day format, dedicated SBCers will have the opportunity to count in their home patch on one day, and then help count in an underbirded county the next! I can't wait!

Robert Fisher

Letter from the Editor

Last winter season, birders witnessed a record irruption of Snowy Owls in Illinois – and we've got a list of every, if not nearly every Snowy seen in our state right here in the pages of *Meadowlark*. David B. Johnson, a fellow birder and friend, wrote a spectacular article with accompanying tables and histograms regarding this great year for an uncommon winter visitor. Photographers were out in full force taking pictures of the owls as far south as Pulaski County. Associate and Photo Editor Steven D. Bailey gathered all these photos and gained permission from the photographers to publish them here in *Meadowlark*. The photographers are commended for their stunning images of owls posing, behaving and interacting with other birds. Meanwhile Barbara Williams crafted another of her great cover drawings to introduce readers to what they'll find in the issue. And Board Member Josh Engel of The Field Museum examined some Snowy Owl pellets to see what they were eating, then wrote a piece about it for this issue as well.

We added four extra pages to get the terrific images in, as well as the Christmas Bird Count and the Winter field notes.

This issue has been a long time coming – we've had to work hard to get all the many details, including all the photographers' names, right, along with dates and places seen.

From the editorial staff, we hope you will enjoy this special issue, a lasting legacy to the Snowy Owl invasion of 2011/2012. We also have it in digital format to be saved for perpetuity.

Coming next issue: Dave Johnson's article on a Black-throated Blue Warbler in Chicago during winter, Jeff Smith's article on finding eight owl species in one day in Illinois, and, the Illinois Statewide Spring Bird Count report from last season. Thanks to all our members for supporting IOS to make issues like these become reality.

Sheryl DeVore

Above:
Snowy Owl with American Crow.
Northerly Island, Chicago, Cook County.
29 January 2012. Photo by Richard Remington.

MEADOWLARK

A Journal of Illinois Birds

Volume 21, Number 3 – 2012

ISSN 1065-2043

Visit Our Website at: http://www.illinoisbirds.org

Articles

Illinois's record irruption of Snowy Owls during the winter of 2011/2012 with notes on historical distribution 74
— David B. Johnson

A sampling of Snowy Owl pellet contents during winter 2011/2012 84
— Joshua I. Engel

Photo Gallery

A Snowy Owl Extravaganza 85

Departments

The 2011/2012 Christmas Bird Count 89
— Paul W. Sweet

Field Notes: Winter Season 2011/2012 99
— Kelly J. McKay and Steven D. Bailey

About Our Cover:

IOS Board Member and Membership Secretary Barbara Williams created this issue's cover of a Snowy Owl. Barbara has been a devoted student of natural history for many years and has been a birder since she saw her first Scarlet Tanager at the age of 4. She ran the biology department at the Burpee Musuem of Natural History for 13 years. She lives in Rockford with her husband, Daniel. Both are dedicated volunteers for IOS.

Copyright©2013 by the Illinois Ornithological Society.

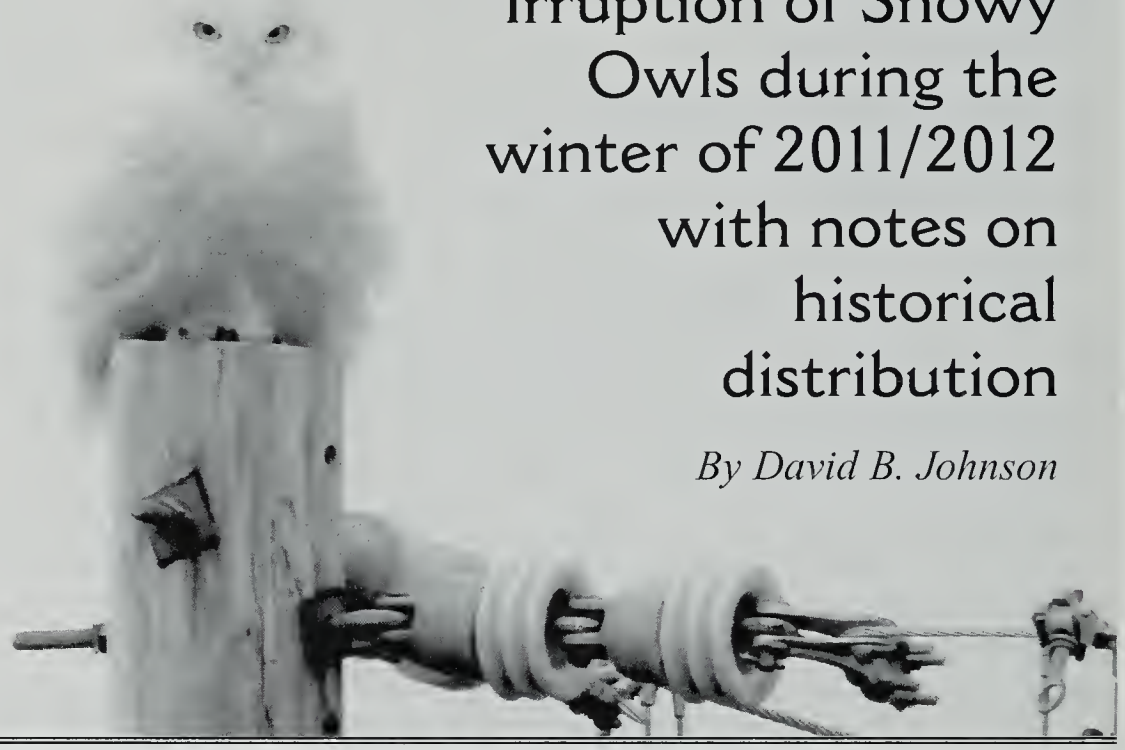
No part ofthis journal may be reproduced without the written permission of IOS and the chief editor, except brief passages of a paragraph or less in which attribution is made to the journal and author.

In many natural objects, whiteness refiningly enhances beauty, as if imparting some special virtue of its own, as in marbles, japonicas, and pearls...that as in essence whiteness is not so much a color as the visible absence of color, and at the same time the concrete of all colors; is if for these reasons that there is such a dumb blankness, full of meaning, in a wide landscape of snows...

– Herman Melville,
Moby Dick

Illinois's Record Irruption of Snowy Owls during the winter of 2011/2012 with notes on historical distribution

By David B. Johnson



Across Illinois during the fall, winter and spring of 2011/2012 observers, birders, raptor rehabilitators, scientists and the general public were amazed at the extent to which Snowy Owls irrupted into the state. Articles and photographs of Snowy Owls made front covers of Illinois newspapers (DeVore 2011), television stations ran special newscasts about the irruption, and birders were often treated to multiple sightings of Snowy Owls throughout Illinois. The huge extent of this most recent record 2011/2012 invasion of 133 sightings or detections in 34 counties in Illinois was, no doubt, bolstered by the ebird contributions of citizen scientists (in most cases experienced birders), other birding forums, the Christmas Bird Count database (a color photograph of a Snowy Owl graced the cover of the 112th CBC issue, LeBaron 2012) and the increased interest in owls bolstered by the media. The fictional Harry Potter's famous companion – Hedwig – a Snowy Owl perhaps stoked additional attention. The Snowy Owl irruption occurred – counter intuitively – in an almost snowless Illinois winter and during the third warmest winter on record according to National Weather Climatic Data (http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/). Illinois's irruption was "just part of the iceberg," so to speak, being part of a continent wide Snowy Owl irruption, massive in scope across the North American continent west to east and as far south as Texas (Dolan 2012) and even as far flung as Honolulu, Hawaii, a first ever record for Hawaii (ebird 2012). For all of the participants who ventured out to witness this record irruption in Illinois and elsewhere – it was truly impressive. (See Figure 1 and Table 1)

The first Snowy Owl recorded in Illinois during the 2011/12 season was an aircraft strike of a bird at O'Hare International Airport on 11 November 2011. On 19 November at Montrose beach and fishhook pier in Chicago, Cook County birders observed two Snowy Owls having flown in off Lake Michigan. Before this and through the end of fall the stage had already been set for a major irruption. In Canada in southern Ontario by mid-November Snowy Owls were showing up at many locations with 14 Snowy Owls at Nittishi Point on 9 November being a peak tally in the massive fall movement (Bain 2012), and in southern Manitoba the owls were widespread. Just to the north, multiple Snowy Owls were noted in 27 Minnesota counties, 37 Wisconsin counties and 24 Michigan counties by the end of the fall season in the Western Great Lakes region (Svingen 2012), while a large irruption in the Dakotas was well underway. To the west of our state a juvenile male Snowy Owl was noted on 7 November, which was the

Above: Snowy Owl. Coles County. 9 February 2012. Photo by Ron Bradley.

Snowy Owl at Montrose, Chicago, Cook County. 7 December 2011. Photo by Robert Hughes.

first of 14 Snowy Owls in Iowa, and there were four in Missouri (Wehtje 2012) during the fall period. To the east, Indiana recorded its first fall Snowy Owl in Starke County on 18 November (Hengeveld et al. 2012).

In December, it was also clear that something major was about to happen or was already happening particularly during early winter and the Christmas Bird Count period (14 Dec – 5 Jan, LeBaron 2012). In Wisconsin just to our north 32 Snowy Owls were tallied on 16 CBCs, the most ever in that state, plus there were winter season reports from 40 counties according to Kavanagh (2012). In Illinois, five counts tallied six Snowy Owls (Sweet 2012), this was in keeping with our neighbor Indiana's four CBC Snowy Owls which tied their previous all-time high (Cassady 2012). Illinois CBC Snowy Owls were all recorded in northern Illinois with four along the lakefront, and two in the interior of the state at Illini and Decatur.

CBCs aside, December and January were the months of the most number of detections or reports of Snowy Owls in the state (See Figure 3). Forty-five Snowy Owls were reported in December and 35 in January with numbers tapering down to 30 and 20 in February and March respectively. March was a record warm month and many owls by mid-March were returning north; detections went significantly down in April and May with just three and four detections for those months (who's looking for Snowy Owls when there's green grass and lawn mowers going?). Looking at the overall detection map, see (Figure 1) and the 133 reports for the state, the lakefront reports of 14 and 52 reports for Lake and Cook counties, one could challenge that many of the reports might be duplicate sightings (and possibly some were, see methodology). In Lake County, 10 reports were lakefront sightings and four were inland; in Cook County, 34 were lakefront reports and 18 detections were inland. Sixty-nine percent of the Snowy Owl detections statewide were inland as compared witho 31 percent along the lakefront. (See Figures 4 and 5.) One can get a sense of this with the Figure 1 and the five reports at Midway Airport in Cook County, nine reports at O'Hare Airport, Cook County, five Snowy Owls noted in Champaign County; seven in Grundy County, and seven in McLean County (See Appendix.) Clearly the trend was that the Snowy Owls coming down the lakeshore moved farther south and inland. Also, it was interesting to note

Snowy Owl with rabbit prey at Montrose, Chicago, Cook County. 18 December 2011. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

that 16.6 percent of the Snowy Owl reports during this irruption season were at airports (19.6 percent if you add old Meigs Field in Chicago, Cook County which is now Northerly Island park).

In addition, lakefront observations showed a big fall off in numbers after December. Kanae Hirabayashi, a frequent birder at Montrose's Harbor and beach along Chicago's lakefront noted on IBET (Illinois Birders Exchanging Thoughts) that after mid- January she did not see another Snowy Owl until mid-February. Lake Michigan did not freeze this winter season and many owls, being unable to hunt ducks from a frozen lakefront, seemed to just push on for better hunting grounds and food sources. From mid-January through mid-February owls seemed to have settled into wintering territories and just a month later by mid-March many were on the return north, though after this major irruption several did linger into April and mid-May.

Unlike the previous irruptions of Snowy Owls during the winters of 1991/1992 (Johnson 1992) and

Snowy Owl with Chicago skyline background. Cook County. Winter 2011-2012. Photo by Richard Remington.

1996/1997 (Johnson & Biss 1997) when most Snowy Owls were noted along Lake Michigan's lakefront this irruption was far and widespread into the interior of Illinois with individuals detected southwest to Randolph County, west to Quincy and along the Mississippi River, as far southeast as Edwards County, and as far south as Pulaski County.

Methodology

The same general methodology was used for obtaining and screening Snowy Owl observational data points as in this journal's 1997 report (Johnson and Biss). However, during this irruption many more tools were available including on-line Ebird reports, IBET (Illinois Birders Exchanging Thoughts) sightings, IBF (Illinois Birder's Forum) on-line CBC (Christmas Bird Count) data for obtaining data points for the Snowy Owl sightings acknowledged. Several hundred photographs were reviewed/ used in separating out individual sightings at Montrose, other Chicago lakefront locations, and elsewhere. IBET and IBF often provided links to photographer's websites to determine whether or not to count a new Snowy Owl record. As a caveat, however, it was nearly impossible to separate out individuals that might have been seen at a different location from each other particularly those reports in close proximity. Thus the number of Snowy Owls reported may have been the same individuals at different locations, but I suspect that far more owls went undetected particularly inland away from large population centers.

For the historical record of distribution of Snowy Owls by counties in Illinois, the author reviewed nearly all Illinois Audubon bulletins (beginning with a 1916 bulletin), all Illinois Birds and Birding issues, and Meadowlark, a Journal of Illinois Birds issues to date (Figure 2).

Any errors of omission are the author's and, as always, updates are welcome to make the record more accurate and complete.

Significant records

The southernmost record ever for Illinois occurred during this irruption in Pulaski County 27 January – 5 February 2012 on Shawnee College Road (Rhonda Rothrock in lit.). The most southwestern record was just east of Red Bud, Randolph County from 26 January through 21 February 2012 (Susan Harbaugh in lit.). The most western record was at the Quincy airport from 15-17 January 2012 (Kara L. Knuffman fide Steve Bailey). The most southeastern sighting was in Edwards County near Bone Gap on 11 December 2011 (Bob Shelby in lit.). The first ever Spring Bird Count record for Snowy Owl also occurred when Pete Olson (in lit.) and other observers photographed a Snowy Owl near Crego Road in

Figure 1: Snowy Owl distribution (Winter 2011/2012)

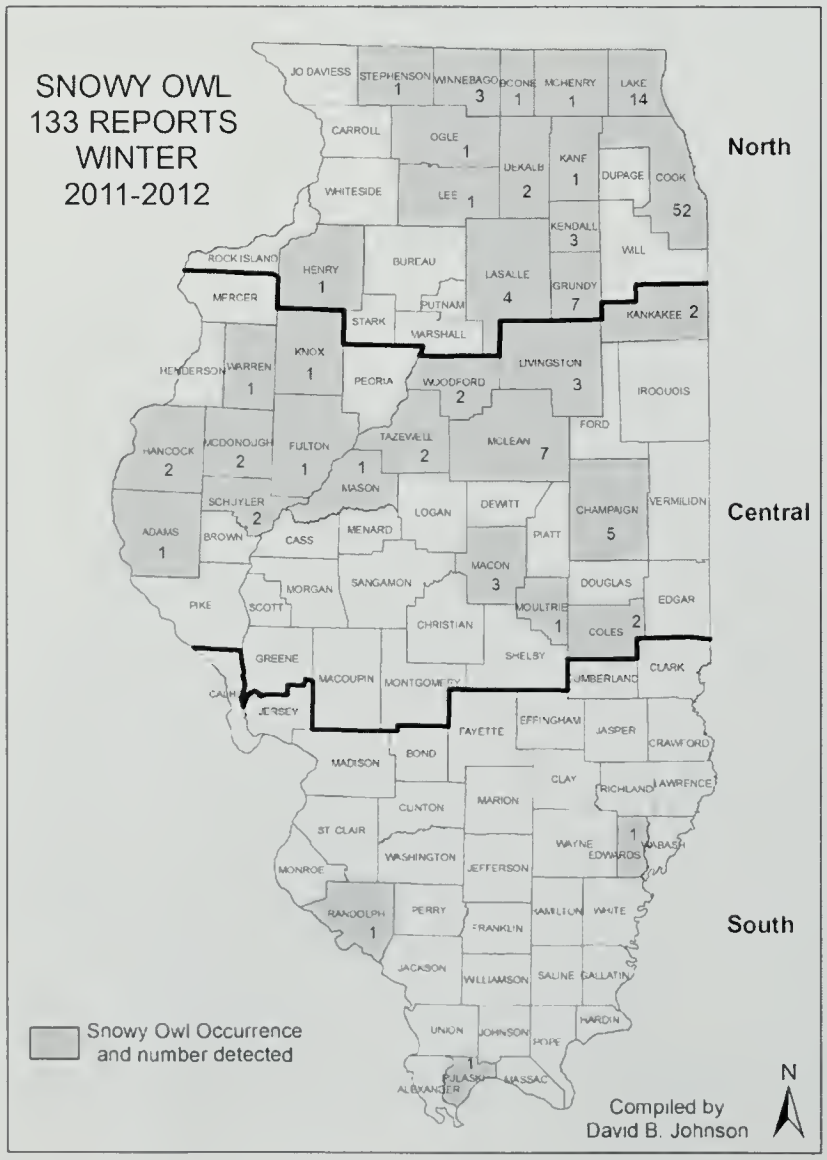
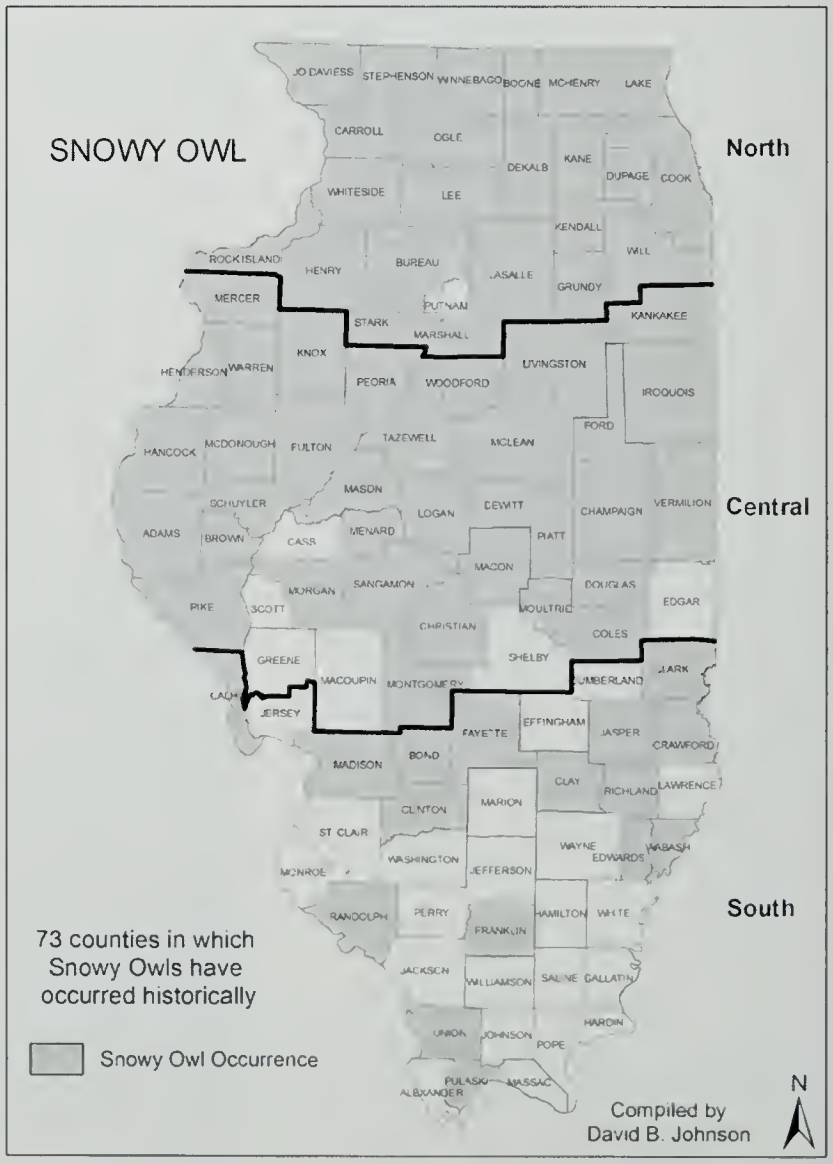


Figure 2: Snowy Owl distribution (historical occurrences)



DeKalb County 5 May 2012. Finally, the latest departure date for Illinois was recorded on 14 May 2012 when Kristin Ellis noted and documented (on file with IORC) a Snowy Owl along an airport taxiway at Rockford International Airport in Winnebago County (one of three detected there during this irruption).

Prey items

During this irruption period in Illinois, Snowy Owls were observed feeding on or there was food content evidence from Snowy Owl pellets for: Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), American Coot (*Fulica Americana*), Brown (Norway) Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel (*Ictidomys tridecemlineatus*), Meadow Vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*), Deer Mice (*Peromyscus sp*), and Eastern Cottontail Rabbit (*Sylvagus floridanus*). In addition Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) was believed to be another prey item though not confirmed. For further information see Josh Engel's report in this journal on the Snowy Owl pellet contents from this 2011/2012 irruption.

Snowy Owls away from their breeding grounds can become very versatile feeders. During a 15-year winter study at Boston's Logan Airport Norman Smith (1997) observed Snowy Owls as very opportunistic feeders, having fed on prey items from geese, ducks, cormorants, rails, pheasant, other owls (including Snowy Owl), shorebirds (including American Oystercatcher and Upland Sandpiper), gulls, muskrat, striped skunk, fish, and even a Great Blue Heron! David Parmelee (1992) noted that John James Audubon also observed Snowy Owls eating fish at water holes.

Winter Territories

Normally without color marking or radio tracking it is nearly impossible to determine an owl's wintering territory. However, during this irruption two Snowy Owls were able to be tracked largely due to the owls

Snowy Owl being harassed by Northern Harrier. Sidney, Champaign county. 9 February 2012. Photo by Bob Schifo.

being the only individuals in their respective counties. In Coles County, Ron Bradley (in lit.) over the course of eight weeks (2 January through 24 February) was able to determine that a male Snowy Owl (nearly pure white) ranged over nine miles of hunting territory near Mattoon, Illinois. In McHenry County, Jim Kriss and Karen Lund (pers. comm.) determined that a Snowy Owl ranged over five miles from Huntley to near Union, Illinois over a period of 13 weeks (19 February through 11 May 2012).

Mortality and Casualties

There was a 6 percent, or eight, known fatalities during this irruption: two of these were road kills from vehicle collisions, two were kills from aircraft strikes, three from starvation and another from starvation and poisoning. Linda Breuer, director of Barnswallow, a wildlife rehabilitation center near Wauconda, recovered an owl in Lindenhurst, Lake County on 30 November 2011, in an open suburban neighborhood with dogs, playgrounds and fences. The owl had apparently been in the area for nearly three weeks amusing families and dogs until someone became really concerned and called Breuer. The owl was infested with feather lice and suffered from emaciation, being less than 50 percent its estimated, normal body weight, and suffering from advanced rodenticide poisoning. Despite critical supportive care, the owl died after two and 1/2 days (Breuer in lit.). One of the aircraft strikes resulted in a banded specimen found by the operations personnel at Rockford International Airport, Winnebago County, on 23 March 2012 found 20 feet off the runway after being struck by the lower left flap of an aircraft wing (FAA Wildlife Strike Database, http://wildlife-mitigation.tc.faa.gov/wildlife/default.aspx). Daniel and Barbara Williams (in lit.) were involved in the recovery of this female specimen which was hatched prior to 2011; it will eventually be housed in the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Cook Co. The owl was banded by Travis Guerrant of Addison, Illinois, in Boone County on 21 March 2012, two days prior to its demise, not too far from the Rockford Airport. Another mortality was of an owl identified by its remains found in the right landing gear and specimen evidence off a runway after an aircraft strike, the first to occur during the irruption at O'Hare International airport on 11 November 2011.

Remarkable Rescues and Rehabilitations

Perhaps the most amazing Snowy Owl story (Mistretta 2012, LuAnn LaSusa, & Karen Lund, in litt.) during this irruption in Illinois occurred when at night on 30 November 2011 a Snowy Owl, perhaps hunting or startled, flew up and collided with a vehicle and was literally pinned to the grill of a SUV Ford Escape going nearly 55 mph near Hampshire on an open country road (Melms Road) in Kane County. Unknown to the driver

As people walk along the beach at Montrose, a Snowy Owl remains motionless. Montrose, Chicago, Cook County. 11 December 2011. Photo by Andrew Aldrich.

until the vehicle was stopped and, after driving several miles, the driver then found a huge white owl pinned by its talons to the front grill of his car and wing flapping against the hood. Such encounters occur often with cars and owls. This usually results in the demise of the owl either flattened in the road or roadside by the same or other vehicles, but, such was not to be the case with this Snowy Owl's encounter with a vehicle. While at the driver's place of employment, local police were notified, and officer, Pete Velez, captured the owl when she became dislodged from the grill by herself, then transported the owl to Willowbrook Wildlife Center, in Glen Ellyn, for rehabilitation. The immature female owl suffered from head trauma, a fractured clavicle and two fractured ribs all on the owl's left side where it had made contact with the vehicle. LuAnn LaSusa from Willowbrook who provided much of the owl's care noted that the owl ate on the first day of care, which was rather unusual. After nearly two months of extensive care and rehabilitation including flight exercises, the immature female owl was successfully released back into the wild at Pratt's Wayne Forest Preserve in DuPage County on 23 January 2012.

Another Snowy Owl that probably was struck by a vehicle occurred near Tolono in Champaign County (Pressey 2012) in early January when observers noticed the owl had not moved much while sitting out in a corn stubble field. The owl, extremely weakened and starving, was rescued on 3 January 2012 and was taken to the University of Illinois Wildlife Medical Clinic. Named Qigiq for a "white hawk that flies in the sky," from Inuit Eskimo culture, the young male owl suffered a broken left wing that required extensive surgery of the humerus bone. Dr. Julia Whittington performed the surgery that repaired the owl's broken wing. Anne Rivas (2012), a veterinary student and the wildlife clinic's co-manager, and Kim Knap of the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital were successful in restoring the bird's wing extension critical for flight after intensive care. The clinic decided that it would be in the owl's best interest to be flown at the end of March to Sitka, Alaska for flight training at the Alaska Raptor Center where chances for the owl's survival would be much higher. Unfortunately, this owl could not fly despite the surgeries, but does remain at the Alaska Raptor Center and is a popular bird as a visitor to children's classrooms as a tool to develop nature appreciation and conservation (Debbie Reeder pers. comm.).

Close Encounters of the Raptor Kind

Certainly one of the most dramatic and photographically documented encounters with another bird of prey during this irruption occurred at Northerly Island on 29 January 2012. The entire Peregrine Falcon vs. Snowy Owl attack was captured on film by photographer Rick Remington. Remington's series of photos and account of the event were posted on North American Birding website (Neise 2012) and within a day the site went viral and because of so many hits the website had to be closed down and transferred to another provider. This amazing photographic series noted the falcon would attack and the owl would crouch down in a defense posture and get ready to lunge back at the falcon or spread its wings as a threat display. The owl performed a somersault just as the peregrine approached and openly displayed its large talons in an attempt to scare off the falcon. This threatening encounter lasted for five full minutes before the falcon flew off and the Snowy Owl flew down to the rocks at the edge of Lake Michigan. Remington stated, "It was a surprisingly violent and noisy encounter, with both birds shrieking loudly and the owl extending its giant wings to intimidate the smaller falcon. I fully expected this to end badly for the owl based on what I was watching. In spite of the obvious mismatch, the Snowy Owl managed to hold its own and escape unscathed." The Peregrine was one of the local breeding birds and was likely defending its hunting territory. Very similar encounters between these two species, as well as with wintering Gyrfalcons, have been witnessed by others in northeastern Minnesota (Evans 2000), in New England (see Forbush 1927), near Barrow, Alaska (Pitelka et al. 1955), and on Baffin Island (Sutton and Parmalee 1955), and usually also involved the falcons attacking the Snowy Owl, often to a stand-off but also included the Snowy

Owls chasing and killing a Peregrine and being killed by a Peregrine.

Another photographic encounter with a bird of prey occurred when a Northern Harrier was observed and photographed harassing a Snowy Owl on the ground in central Illinois, see photograph.

Historical detection distribution map by counties in Illinois

Snowy Owls have occurred historically in 73 counties in Illinois (Figure 2.) Nearly all the distribution has been in the top two-thirds of the state. Only one county in northern Illinois has not recorded a Snowy Owl; that is Putnam County. In central Illinois, six counties have not recorded a Snowy Owl: Cass, Scott, Greene, Macoupin, Shelby and Edgar, nearly all in the bottom tier of central Illinois. In southern Illinois, 22 counties have never recorded a Snowy Owl and distribution has been splotchy with Wabash County being the southeasternmost, Randolph County the south-westernmost, and Union and Pulaski counties being the southernmost counties with records.

Historical irruptions in Illinois

According to Bohlen (1989) known irruptions of Snowy Owls have occurred during the years of 1876-77, 1882-83, 1889-90, 1892-93, 1896-97, 1901-02, 1905-06, 1909-10, 1917-18, 1926-27, 1930-31, 1949-50, 1974-75, 1976-77, 1978-79, 1980-81, 1991-92 (Johnson 1992), 1996-97 (Johnson 1997), and 2011-12. Bohlen (1989) also lists other possible irruptions during the years of 1967-68 and 1987-88. Angelo Capparella (pers. comm.) suggests that there may have been another invasion year in Illinois during 1867-1868 based on a mount specimen from Lee Co. (ISU specimen #234).

Other Midwest state's irruptions

Additionally many Midwest states achieved record Snowy Owl irruptions during the period 2011/2012. Indiana tallied a record 50 Snowy Owls from 18 November 2011 through 12 May 2012 (Ken Brock in lit.). Nebraska had reports of 200 sightings with at least 159 of those verified (David Heidt, Joel Jorgensen in lit.). Kansas had a record 160 observations and Missouri tallied approximately a record 60 sightings from 22 November 2011 through 6 March 2012 (Mark Robbins, Joshua Uffman in lit.). One observer in N. Dakota alone had 101 observations of Snowy Owls and there were at least 153 observations statewide from 10 November 2011 through 4 May 2012 (Corey Ellingson in lit.). There were 193 sightings in South Dakota from 1 November 2011 through 7 May 2012 (Jeffrey Palmer, Michael Melius in lit.). Michigan tallied approximately 200 sightings with the first arrival on 11 November 2011 in the Upper Peninsula (Skye Hass in lit.). Minnesota had 337 reports from 4 October 2011 through 8 July 2012 though many were duplicates and the final tally was estimated at 217 birds (Anthony Hertzel 2012). Like Minnesota, Wisconsin estimated their total to be between 150-200 individuals from 10 November 2011 through 7 June 2012 (Ryan Brady in lit.) and like Minnesota there was a problematic issue of distilling down of duplicate individuals from ebird and other listing sites. Iowa recorded 154 owls, their second largest documented irruption, from 7 November 2011 to 10 March 2012 (Stephen Dinsmore in lit.). Ohio recorded 23 owls from 28 November 2011 through 8 April 2012 (Craig Caldwell in lit.) and surprisingly just to the south of Illinois, Kentucky reported none (Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. in lit.).

Acknowledgments

This report would not have been possible with the wonderful support of many people interested in this irruption of Snowy Owls, perhaps too numerous to mention all the names of helpful individuals (any errors of omission are mine).

For the state detection distribution report maps I must thank Tara Beveroth for providing these excellent figure maps for the report and who so graciously endured my numerous requests for updates. I would like to thank Sebastian Patti for reviewing a draft of this paper. There were many photographers who so kindly let me and others review their images for separating out individuals at high detection sites: Mary Jo Adams, Charles Bristow, Mark Bowman, Rob Curtis, Jerry Goldner, Frank Hildebrand, Robert Hughes, Nolan Lameka, Benjamin Murphy (who also spent a great deal of time sorting out the Snowy Owl observations and photographs in McLean, Livingston and Woodford counties), Tim Lindenbaum, Karen Lund, Matthew Winks, Matt Fraker, Rick Remington, Jeff Smith, Steve Spitzer, and Aaron Yount. There were several researchers who helped provide and research data details and I thank Angelo Capparella (Illinois State University), Steve Bailey (Illinois Natural History Survey), Craig Bloomquist (USDA biologist), Josh Engel (Field Museum), Craig Pullins (USDA biologist), Dan and Barbara Williams for banding and specimen research, Sean Fitzgerald and Aaron Boone (for mapping GPS coodinates of owls at O'Hare Airport). I must thank LuAnn LaSusa of Willowbrook Wildlife Center, Anne Rivas of the University of Illinois Wildlife Medical Clinic, Linda Breuer of Barnswallow, a Wild Bird Concern, and Debbie Reeder executive director of the Alaska Raptor Center and their respective staffs for providing details on Snowy Owl rehabilitations.

A special thanks must go to the following individuals who so kindly provided information on their Snowy Owl records or reports from other observers in the following counties: Adams and Hancock counties: Steve Bailey, Kara L. Knuffman, Adam, Pat and Phil Reyburn. Boone County: Steve Bailey. Champaign County: Steve Bailey, Greg Lambeth

and Carie Nixon. Coles County: Ron Bradley. Cook County: Cathy Bloome, Peter Bullock, Rena Cohen, Pat Durkin, Joe Lill, Robert Hughes, Kanae Hirabayashi, Steve Huggins, Josh Engel, Jerry Goldner, Joel Greenberg, Jennifer Davit, Judy Pollock, Fran Morel, Joan Norek, Greg Neise, Sebastian Rioux, Andrew P. Sigler, Doug Stotz, m. obs. DeKalb County: Peter Olson, Matt Fraker and Angelo Capparella. Edwards County: John Pohl, Bob Shelby and Leroy Harrison. Fulton and McDonough counties: Larry Hood. Henry County: Steve Bailey and Dale Lindstrom. Grundy and Kendall counties: Margie and Alan Busic, Jim Smith, Robert Fisher, Yeanette Johnson and Donnalyn Quint. Kankakee County: Jed Hertz and Cecily Langellier. Knox, Warren, Hancock and Schuyler counties: Ron and Audrey Meade, Kurt McMurl, Jim Mountjoy, Mike Madsen and Michael Baum. Lake County: Donnie Dann, Eric, Aaron and Ethan Gyllenhaal, Alan F Stokie, Bob Erickson, Beau Schaefer, Jim Solum, Paul Sweet, Lizz Morris, Linda Thompson, Eric Walters, and Matthew Cvetas. LaSalle County: Bob Carper, Robert and Karen Fisher, John and Cindy McKee, Kurt and Janet Plymire. Lee County: Dustin Holschuh. Macon County: Travis Mahan and Rich Laramore. Mason and Tazewell counties: Mike Ingram, Colin Dobson, Tony Ward and Kevin Richmond. McHenry and Kane counties: Doug Crane, Jim Kriss and Karen Lund. McLean, Livingston, and Woodford counties: Ted Hartzler, Matt Fraker, Matthew Winks, Angelo Capparella, Fran Harty, Benjamin Murphy, Pete Moxon, and Jeff Smith. Moultrie County: Steve Bailey, Greg Lambeth and Pete Moxon. Ogle and Stephenson counties: Anne Straight and Steve Simpson. Pulaski County: Ronda Rothrock, Myra and Frank Bennett. Randolph County: Susan Harbaugh and Keith McMullen. Winnebago County: Kristin Ellis, Dan and Barbara Williams.

Thanks to all birders not mentioned above who additionally contributed to the database of Illinois Snowy Owl records, see Appendix, and who shared their notes on IBET and IBF.

Finally, I thank Steve Bailey and Sheryl DeVore for prompting me to get this account complete to share with the Illinois birding community.

Literature Cited

Bain, M. 2012. Ontario Regional Report. North American Birds 66:68-75.

Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The birds of Illinois. Indiana University Press. Bloomington. 221 pp.

Cassady, J. K. 2012. Indiana Regional Summary. The 112th Christmas Bird Count 66:74-75.

DeVore, S. 2011. Snowy Owl Invasion. Chicago Tribune, 14 Dec 2011; Retrieved from http://www.chicagotribune.com.

Dolan, D. 2012. Snowy Owl In Dallas. North American Birding, 12 February 2012; Retrieved from http://www.nabirding.com/2012/02/19/snowy-owl-in-dallas/

Ebird. 2012. The winter of the Snowy Owl, North American Birding, 7 Feb 2012; Retrieved from http://www.nabirding.com/2012.02.07/the-winter-of-the-snowy-owl/

Evans, D. 2000. Interactions between Snowy Owls and large falcons at Duluth. Loon 72:37-39.

Forbush, E.H. 1927. Birds of Massachusetts and other New England states. Vol.2. Berwick and Smith Co., Norwood, MA. 461 pp.

Hengeveld, J., K. McMullen and G. Williamson. 2012. Illinois & Indiana Regional Report. North American Birds 66: 82-85.

Hertzel, A. X. 2012. The 2011-2012 Snowy Owl invasion in Minnesota. Loon 84:146-150.

Johnson, D. B. 1992. Snowy Owl Invasion. Meadowlark1:82-87.

Johnson, D. B. and R. Biss. 1997. The 1996-97 record invasion of Snowy Owls in Illinois with a summary of records from Illinois and lower Lake Michigan. Illinois Ornithological Society. Meadowlark 6:124-127.

Kavanagh, K. 2012. The Winter Season: 2011–2012. Passenger Pigeon 74:361-384.

LeBaron, G. S. 2012. The 112th Christmas Bird Count. The 112th Christmas Bird Count 66:2-7.

Mistretta, E. 2012. Snowy owl returns to wild after rehab in DuPage. Daily Herald, 23 Dec 2012; Retrieved from http://dailyherald.com/article/20120123/news/701239819

Pitelka, F.A., P.Q. Tomich and G.W. Treichel. 1955. Ecological relations of jaegers and owls as lemming predators near Barrow, Alaska. Ecol. Monogr. 25:85-117.

Neise, G. 2012. When a snowy met the locals. North American Birding, 16 February 2012. Retrieved from http://www.nabirding.com/2012/02/16/when-a-snowy-met-the-locals/

Pressey, D. 2012. Caregivers put snowy owl on plane to Alaska. The News-Gazette, 30 Mar 2012; Retrieved from http://www.news-gazette.com/news/education/2012-03-30/caregivers-put-snowy-owl-plane-alaska.html

Parmelee, D. F. 1992. Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca. Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna. Birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/010

Rivas, A. 2012. Meet Qigiq, the snowy owl our featured Wildlife Medical Center Case. University of Illinois Wildlife Clinic. YouTube. Retrieved from http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPt4TwAa12U

Smith, N. 1997. Observations of Wintering Snowy Owls (*Bubo [Nyctea] scandiacus*) at Logan Airport, East Boston, Massachusetts from 1981-1997. Biology and Conservation of the Owls of the Northern Hemisphere. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report NC-190: 591-596.

Sutton, G.M. and D.F. Parmelee. 1955. The Peregrine Falcon on Baffin Island. Bird-Banding 26:147-152.

Svingen, P. H. 2012. Western Great Lakes Regional Report. North American Birds 66: 86-88.

Sweet, P. 2012. Illinois Regional Summary. The 112th Christmas Bird Count 77-78.

Wehtje, W. 2012. Iowa and Missouri Regional Report. North American Birds 66: 89-94.

David B. Johnson,
504 Crown Point Drive,
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089;
djohnsoda@comcast.net

Figure 3: Snowy Owl Detections

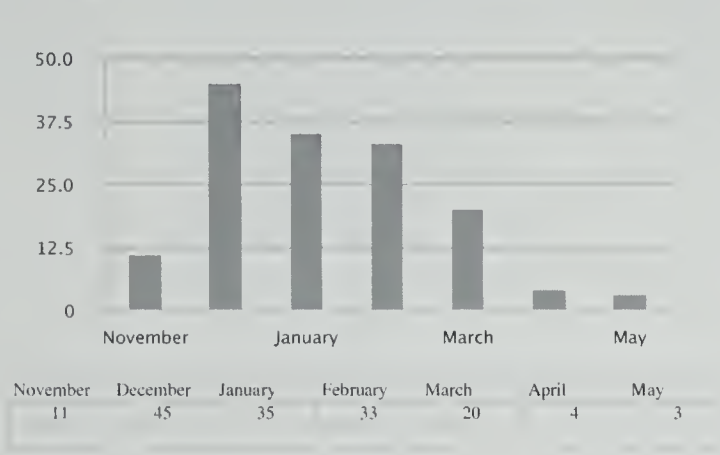


Figure 4: Snowy Owl Detections

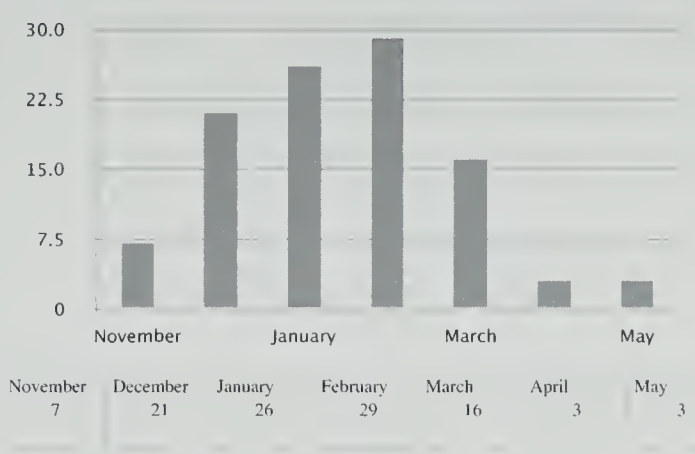


Figure 4: Snowy Owl Detections

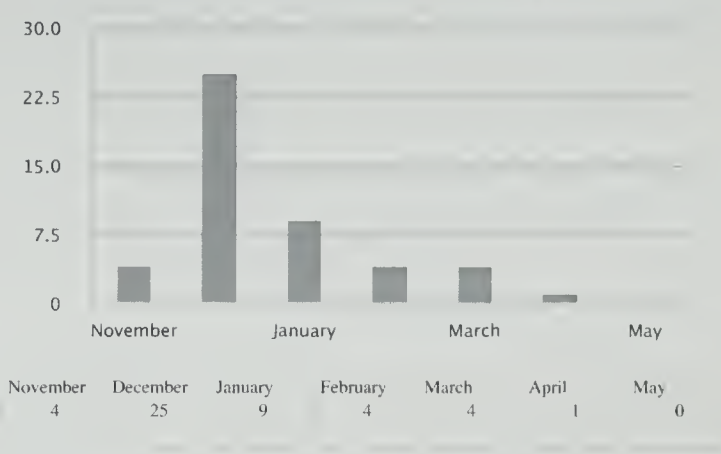


Table 1: Notes on Snowy Owl Occurrences

County	Nearest Town/Location	From Date	To Date	Month	Plumage/ Sex	Observer	Comments
Adams	Quincy, airport, SR104	15-Jan-12	17-Jan-12			Kara Knuffman fide Steve Bailey	photos
Boone	Belevidere	17-Feb-12	20-Feb-12	2		fide Steve Bailey	reported on GBBC
Champaign	Savoy E of Tolono	30-Dec-11	3-Jan-12	12	female	Greg Lambeth, Steve Bailey, Pete Moxon	broken wing Qigiq rehab flown to Alaska
Champaign	Sidney & Homer E of Sidney field	6-Jan-12				Donald Maum	Champaign owls fide Greg Lambeth
Champaign	1300E 1/2 way between 500N and 600N	29-Dec-11	9-Jan-12	12	male	Carrie Nixon	
Champaign	W of 130 at 500N	5-Jan-12	7-Jan-12			Greg Lambeth	approx. dates
Champaign	Willard Airport	30-Dec-1		12		Travis Mahan	
Coles	Charleston, 3.5 mi. E of IL Rte. 130	14-Jan-12				Ron Bradley	
Coles	Mattoon	2-Jan-12	24-Feb-12	2	adult male	Ron Bradley	photos; The bird has been found within a 9 square mile area between County Rd 1000N and 1300N between County Rd 700E and 1000E.
Cook	1st Ave near Ogden quarry	20-Dec-1		12		fide Sue Friscia	
Cook	Chicago, Caldwell Lily Pond	13-Dec-11	19-Dec-11	12		Joan Norek, Steve Huggins	
Cook	Chicago, Hollywood & Lawrence	23-Dec-1		12			
Cook	Chicago, Lake Shore Drive	18-Dec-1		12			
Cook	Chicago, Monroe Harbor	27-Jan-12				Doug Stotz, Dave B. Johnson	
Cook	Chicago, Montrose	19-Nov-1		1			
Cook	Chicago, Montrose	24-Nov-1		1	immature		very dark; flew out over lake! New owl
Cook	Chicago, Montrose	6-Dec-1		12		Steve Spitzer	new owl w/photos
Cook	Chicago, Montrose	7-Dec-11	8-Dec-1	12	males	Robert Hughes	two new owls here
Cook	Chicago, Montrose	11-Dec-1		12			photos; new owl with distinct black ear tufts
Cook	Chicago, Montrose	15-Dec-1		12	adult male		two birds; almost all white
Cook	Chicago, Montrose	25-Dec-11	25-Dec-1	12			
Cook	Chicago, Montrose	30-Dec-1		12	adult male	Steve Spitze	nearly pure white; (one day only)
Cook	Chicago, Montrose	31-Dec-1		12	immature	Mark Bowman	new bird with very dark cap!
Cook	Chicago, Montrose	8-Jan-12				Rena Cohen	
Cook	Chicago, Montrose	12-Jan-12	14-Jan-12		immature	Steve Spitzer	photos; new owl w/distinct black ear tufts
Cook	Chicago, Montrose	16-Feb-12	16-Feb-12	2		Kanae Hirabayashi	new bird
Cook	Chicago, Montrose	14-Mar-12		3			new migrant possibly same? As Jerry Goldner video in Mar?
Cook	Chicago, Navy Pier Breakwater	19-Nov-1		1		Chris Williamson	

Table 1: Notes on Snowy Owl Occurrences, *continued*

County	Nearest Town/Location	From Date	To Date	Month	Plumage/ Sex	Observer	Comments
Cook	Chicago, Northerly Island	2-Dec-1		12			
Cook	Chicago, Northerly Island	14-Jan-12	29-Jan-12			Pat Durkin m.obs.	
Cook	Chicago, Northerly Island	28-Jan-12	28-Jan-12		female	Robert Hughes	
Cook	Chicago, Northerly Island	1-Mar-12		3		Steve Huggins, m.obs.	photos
Cook	Chicago, Soldier Field & Lake Shore Dr.	23-Mar-12	4-Apr-12	3		Peter Bullock--	dead on Lake Shore Dr.? south of the 1 mile to I-55 junction sign and south of metal foot bridge
Cook	Chicago, Promontory Point, Hyde Park	1-Dec-1		12			
Cook	Chicago, Water Filtration Plant, Navy Pier	1-Jan-12	26-Mar-12			Steve Huggins	photos
Cook	Chicago, Wolf Lake	9-Jan-12	31-Jan-12			Carolyn Marsh	also seen in IN
Cook	Chicago, 39th St. at Lake Front	10-Feb-12		2		Eric Ginsberg	
Cook	Evanston, 1718 Sherman	14-Dec-1		12		Judy Pollock	
Cook	Lansing	28-Feb-12		2			
Cook	O'Hare, N ofPost Office Ponds, on light pole	3-Feb-12		2		Cathy Bloome	
Cook	O'Hare, United Airlines aircraft strike	11-Nov-1		1			FAA report; hit by right landing gear/Earliest arrival date for IL irrruption 180
Cook	O'Hare, runway	27-Dec-1		12		Sebastian Rioux	ebird
Cook	O'Hare, runway	19-Jan-12				fide Craig Bloomquist Wildlife Biologist USDA Wildlife Services	
Cook	O'Hare, runway	23-Feb-12		2		Aaron Boone fide Dan Williams	
Cook	O'Hare, runway	6-Mar-12		3		fide Craig Bloomquist Wildlife Biologist USDA Wildlife Services	
Cook	O'Hare, runway	16-Feb-12	13-Mar-12	2		Sean Fitzgerald	ebird, 200 yards W of remote parking areas
Cook	O'Hare, runway	20-Mar-12		3		fide Craig Bloomquist Wildlife Biologist USDA Wildlife Services	
Cook	O'Hare, runway	22-Mar-12		3		fide Craig Bloomquist Wildlife Biologist USDA Wildlife Services	
Cook	Midway Airport, airfield	29-Nov-1		1		fide Craig Bloomquist Wildlife Biologist USDA Wildlife Services	
Cook	Midway Airport, airfield	3-Jan-12	4-Jan-12			fide Craig Bloomquist Wildlife Biologist USDA Wildlife Services	
Cook	Midway Airport, airfield	23-Feb-12		2		fide Craig Bloomquist Wildlife Biologist USDA Wildlife Services	
Cook	Midway Airport, airfield	28-Apr-12		4		fide Craig Bloomquist Wildlife Biologist USDA Wildlife Services	
Cook	Schiller Park, near Lawrence and Montrose	5-Jan-12					
Cook	Wilmette, Wilmette Harbor	15-Dec-1		12		Linden Casey	
DeKalb	Near Crego Rd (on Spring Bird Count!)	5-May-12		5		Pete Olson et al.	photos
DeKalb	southern DeKalb Co. ISM specimen	8-Jan-12				Angelo Capparella	photos
Edwards	1 mi E of Bone Gap (Close to Bonpas River)	11-Dec-1		12		John Pohl	photos
Fulton		14-Feb-12		2		fide Larry Hood	
Grundy	E side of Brisbin Rd, S of IL Rte 6	10-Mar-12					
Grundy	Goose Lake Prairie	11-Jan-12	23-Feb-12			Pete Moxon & Leslie, Steve Bailey, Jeff Smith, Bob & Karen Fisher, Vicki S.	photos
Grundy	Minooka, I-80 & on Minooka Rd	28-Dec-11	31-Dec-1	12	adult, female?	Margie and Alan Busic, Donnalyn Quint	Same bird as photographed day before
Grundy	Minooka, on frontage Rd	31-Dec-1		12	immature		very dirty black barring w/white face; two seen at once within 75 yards of each other
Grundy	NE of Morris found dead in farmer's field 8150 N Brisbin Road	28-Feb-12		2		(fide Don Belcha, Steve Bailey)	
Grundy	in cornfield	3-Jan-12			male		
Hancock	Nauvoo, River mile 380.2 along Hwy 96,	1-Jan-12	8-Jan-12		immature, female?	Ron and Audrey Meade	photo; N of 2300 North & W of 1200
Hancock	Powellton	22-Dec-12	9-Dec-1	12			
Henry	Kewanee, Kewanee Airport	15-Feb-12	3-Mar-12	2	adult, male	Dale Lindstrom, David B. Johnson, Andy Sigler, Jeff Smith, Mike Baum, m.obs.	photos
Kane	Hampshire, Melms Road	30-Nov-1		1	1st year. female		hit by SUV and rehab amazing story in Chicago Tribune! Released at Pratts Wayne Woods FP on 23 Jan 2012 after rehab
Kankakee	Bourbonnais, Career Center Rd	22-Dec-1		12		fide Jed Hertz	
Kankakee	Manteno, 1 mile south of Manteno Exit I-57	30-Dec-1		12	adult, male	Cecily Langellier	
Kendall	Yorkville, W side of Rte 47, S of Ament Rd.	10-Mar-12		3			
Kendall	Yorkville, Silver Springs SP	9-Mar-12		3			
Kendall	in farmer's field along fence line	11-Mar-12		3	immature	Dave B. Johnson, Andy Sigler, Jeff Smith, Pete Moxon, Andrew Aldrich et al.	photos
Knox	Victoria	15-Mar-12				fide Mike Baum, Phil and Pat Reyburn, Jim Mountjoy	photo; approx. date
Lake	Grayslake, Prairie Crossing & Jones Pt. Rd.	1-Mar-12		3		fide Lizz Morris	
Lake	Round Lake Heights, Chesapeake Subdiv.	6-Jan-1				Linda Thompson fide Mark Hurley	

Table 1: Notes on Snowy Owl Occurrences, *continued*

County	Nearest Town/Location	From Date	To Date	Month	Plumage/ Sex	Observer	Comments
Lake	Wadsworth, Temple Lippizan Farms	6-Apr-12		4	adult, male	Barbara Hoeldt	photo
Lake	Waukegan, Waukegan Harbor	3-Dec-11	4-Dec-1	12	young?, female	Ethan, Aaron, and Eric Gyllenthal, Steve Bailey, m.obs.	
Lake	Waukegan, Waukegan Harbor	10-Dec-1		12	immature	Al Stokie	new owl here
Lake	Waukegan, Waukegan Harbor	18-Dec-1		12	immature		heavily marked juvenile
Lake	Waukegan, Waukegan Harbor	2-Jan-12					
Lake	Winthrop Harbor, North Point Marina	2-Dec-1		12	immature	Matthew Cvetas, Steve Bailey	caught and ate an American Coot
Lake	Winthrop Harbor, North Point Marina	5-Dec-1		12			2nd Snowy Owl here
Lake	Winthrop Harbor, North Point Marina	10-Dec-1		12		Al Stokie	two new owls here
Lake	Winthrop Harbor, North Point Marina	31-Dec-1		12		Robert Hughes	
Lake	Winthrop Harbor, North Point Marina	18-Feb-12		2		m.obs.	Gull Frolic
Lake	Lindenhurst, golf course	30-Nov-11			1st year, female	Linda Bruer	died from advanced rodenticide poisoning
LaSalle	Seneca, 1/4 E of N18 and E22-Dec-1			12		Bob Carper	photos
LaSalle	Seneca, another Snowy S. of N20 and E27	15-Dec-11	22-Jan-12	12		John and Cindy McKee,	silo owl?
LaSalle	Seneca, often at Power Plant (N20 and E27)	12-Dec-11	2-Feb-12	12	immature	John and Cindy McKee, Steve Bailey, Pete Moxon, Jeff Smith, m.obs	photos.
LaSalle	Leonore Road at N18 and E16	12-Dec-11	14-Dec-1	12		Kurt & Janet Plymire	photos
Lee	Harmon, I-88 mile post 49.25	29-Dec-1		12	probable male	Dustin Holschuh	
Livingston	S of E 1300 N Rd and E of N 00 E Rd	15-Feb-12	20-Feb-12	2	adult, male	Matt Fraker, Ted Hartzler, Jeff Smith, Pete Moxon, Steve Bailey (also seen in Woodford, fide Ben Murphy) Steve Bailey,	photos
Livingston	2nd owl	20-Feb-12	3-Mar-12	2		Jeff Smith, Pete Moxon	
Livingston	near Woodford Co. line, E 900 N Rd.	21-Feb-12	21-Feb-12	2	adult , male	fide Ben Murphy	photos
Macon	Decatur, airport	20-Dec-12		12		Travis Mahan	
Macon	Forsyth	20-Dec-11	1-Jan-12	12		Rich Laramore, Matt Fraker	photos
Mason		19-Dec-11	31-Dec-1	12		fide Kevin Richmond, Mike Baum found dead by Tony Ward and Colin Dobson	
McDonough	New Philedelphia, on telephone pole	6-Feb-12		2	adult, male	Larry Hood	
McDonough	farm field	11-Feb-12		2		fide Larry Hood	
McHenry	Huntley, Mucnsching Rd	19-Feb-12	11-May-12	2	immature, male	Doug Crane, Steve Bailey, Karen Lund, m.obs. photos.	seen by Jim Kriss in Jan?
McLean	Near El Paso but in McLean Co., Hwy 24	30-Nov-11	1-Dec-11	12	immature	Ben Murphy	photos
McLean	Central Illinois Regional Airport, Bloomington	8-Jan-12	9-Jan-12			Fran Harty	
McLean	Gridley, Hwy 24, 1700 E	11-Jan-12	27-Feb-12		adult, male	Ben Murphy & Matt Fraker, Aaron Yount,	photos
		(or just end date of 22-Jan-2012 only?)			possible a 2nd owl?		
McLean	Northeast of Towanda	26-Jan-12				fide Matt Fraker	
McLean	Carlock, 800 E, 1/2 mile N of Northtown Rd	11-Feb-12	12-Feb-12	2	adult, female	Angelo Capparella, Les & Sheila Allen	
McLean	E of Lexington/Towanda, Hwy 8:	13-Feb-12	20-Feb-12	2	adult, female	Tim Lindenbaum	
McLean	in field at NE corner of 2450N and 3100 E	20-Feb-12		2		Jeff Smith, Pete Moxon	photos
Moultrie	SW of Arthur, CR 2000N between 1600E & 1700E	2-Jan-12			immature	Pete Moxon, Greg Lambeth, Steve Bailey, Rob Kanter	Rob Kanter
Ogle	Forreston, NW of Forreston on Mt. Vernon Rd.	14-Jan-12	15-Jan-12			fide Anne Straight	approx dates
Pulaski	2.5 miles W of IL Rte 37, just east of Shawnee Community College	27-Jan-12	5-Feb-12		immature	Myra and Frank Bennett, John Schwegman, Keith McMullen m.obs.	photos
Randolph	Red Bud, 1 mile east of Red Bud, Ellis Grove	26-Jan-12	21-Feb-12		adult	Susan Harbaugh, Mark Seiffert	photos
Schuyler	Beardstown, Hwy 103 just W of Beardstown	23-Nov-12	7-Nov-1	1		Tharrin Hobson, Bob Randall, Curt McMurl	photos; found live, later hit by car
Schuyler	Bluff City	20-Feb-12	23-Feb-12	2		Mike Madsen	
Stephenson	Freeport, W. of Highland Community College	3-Mar-12		3		Steve Simpson fide Anne Straight	
Tazewell	East Peoria, Illinois Central Community College	25-Feb-12		2			
Tazewell	Tremont, 1/2 mi w. of Tremont on I-155	8-Feb-12		2		Mike Ingram	
Warren		20-Jan-12					photos; in cornfield and on hay bales
Winnebago	Rockford, two seen together; one later strike	15-Mar-12		3			Shannon, two Snowy Owls seen at once, approx date in Mar
Winnebago	Rockford, UPS aircraft strike upon landing	23-Mar-12		3	specimen	Shannon, Dan Williams,	FAA report female found dead 20 feet off runway
Winnebago	Rockford, seen off airport taxiway	14-May-12		5	immature	Kristin Ellis	latest departure date for Illinois!
Woodford	on W side of N 00 E rd, 1/3 N of E 1200 N Rd	20-Feb-12		2	adult, male	Jeff Smith, Pete Moxon	
Woodford	just S side of Co Rd 1400N/Co Hwy 16 and just W of Co Rd 3200E/N 00 E Rd3200E County Line Rd	15-Feb-12	20-Feb-12	2	adult, male	Ted Hartzler, Pete Moxon, Jeff Smith	

Total 133 birds reported

A Sampling of Snowy Owl Pellet Contents during winter 2011/12

By Joshua I. Engel

Snowy Owl eating freshly caught American Coot on rocky jetty at Winthrop Harbor, Zion, Lake County. 2 December 2011. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

Snowy Owls (*Bubo scandiacus*) staged a record irruption during the winter of 2011-2012. With Snowy Owls seen throughout the state, several people were able to procure regurgitated pellets. Pellets consist of undigested parts of a bird's prey, often comprising fur, feathers, exoskeletons and bones. Pellet contents have long been used to assess the diets of owls, which due to their nocturnal habits can be very difficult to do through observations (e.g. Cahn and Kemp 1930).

I received a small series of pellets from the irruption from the Chicago lakefront (six pellets, thanks to Jennifer Duncan, Steve Spitzer, and Jerry Goldner) and from Coles County in east-central Illinois (two pellets, thanks to Ronald Bradley), which I analyzed for their contents. A similar study conducted at Horicon Marsh, Wisconsin, during the 1960-61 Snowy Owl irruption, found that among five individuals, 73% of pellets contained meadow voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*), 30% contained muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), and 23% contained duck parts (Keith 1963).

Identifications of the rodents were made based on the molars found in the pellets using Hoffmeister (1989) and the Field Museum mammal collection as references. Three prey species were found in the lakefront pellets. One pellet – from Montrose Beach – contained the skulls of two brown rats (*Rattus norvegicus*). Among five pellets collected between Northerly Island and 41st St. were eight meadow voles, two unidentified *Microtus* voles, and one American Coot (*Fulica americana*). The two pellets from Coles County contained no fewer than nine individual *Peromyscus* mice.

This study reveals just a small sample of the varied diet of Snowy Owls in Illinois during the 2011-2012 irruption. Other prey items, including eastern cottontail (*Sylvagus floridanus*) and Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), were also reported. A study of a similar number of Snowy Owl pellets from coastal Washington during the same time period revealed a diet consisting entirely of birds, including Sanderling (*Calidris alba*), Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), and Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) (Paulson 2012).

Rodent jaws and skull bones found in Snowy Owl pellet. Photo by Joshua I. Engel.

Literature cited

Hoffmeister, D.F. 1989. Mammals of Illinois. University of Illinois Press, Urbana.

Kahn, A.R. and J.T. Kemp 1930. On the food of certain owls in east-central Illinois. Auk 47: 323-328.

Keith, L. B. 1963. A note on Snowy Owl food habits. Wilson Bulletin 75: 276-277.

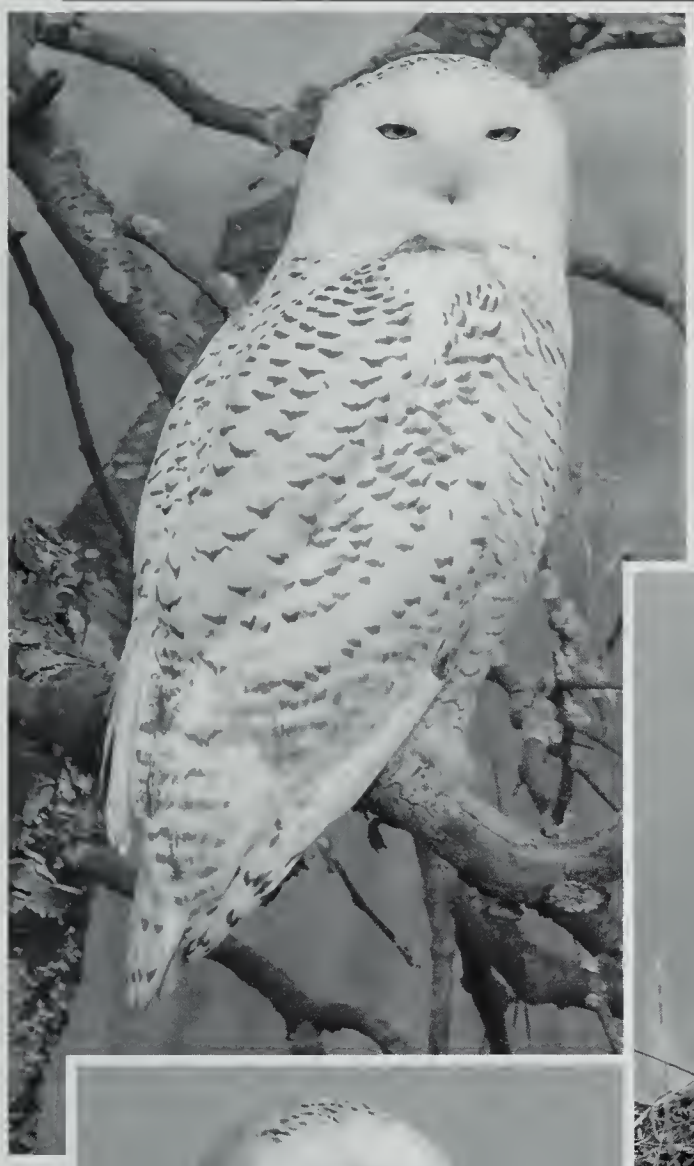
Paulson, D. 2012. Snowy Owls are ornithophagous. Northwest Nature Notes. http://slatermuseum.blogspot.com/2012/04/snowy-owls-are-ornithophagous.html

Joshua I. Engel
Field Museum of Natural History
Division of Birds
1400 S. Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, Illinois 60605
jengel2@fieldmuseum.org

Snowy Owl coughing up pellet. Montrose Point, Lincoln Park, Chicago, Cook County. 11 December 2012. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

Snowy Owl pellet found in Livingston County showing size. 3 March 2012. Photo by Ben Murphy.

The Beauty of the Snowy Owl

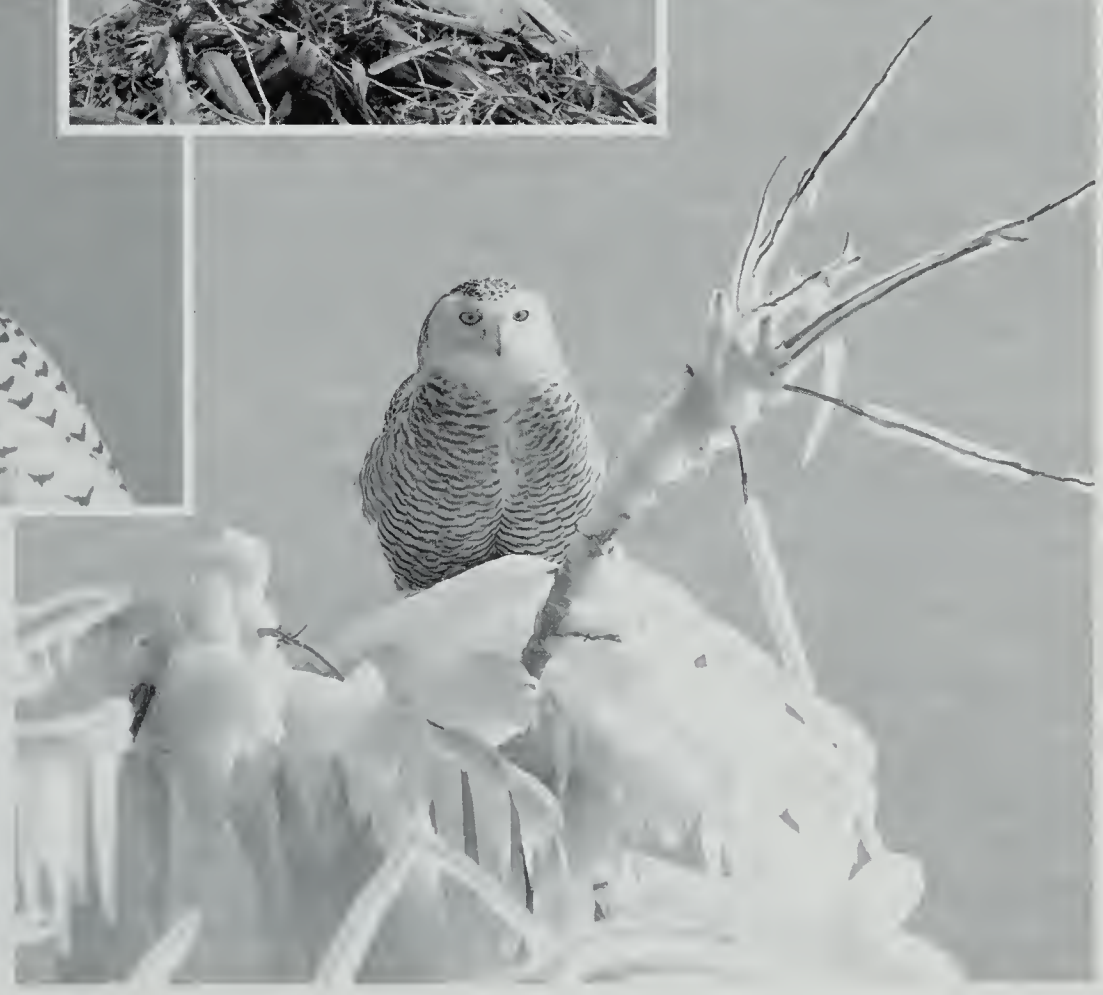


*Snowy Owl at Montrose,
Chicago, Cook County.
2 January 2012.
Photo by John Picken.*

*Snowy Owl in McHenry
County. 1 April 2012.
This bird remained
in the area into May.
Photo by John Longhenry.*

*Snowy Owl at Montrose,
Chicago, Cook County.
11 December 2011.
Photo by Jackie Bowman*

*Snowy Owl at Montrose,
Chicago, Cook County.
11 December 2011.
Photo by Mark Bowman.*



*Snowy Owl
at Northerly Island,
Chicago, Cook County.
5 February 2012.
Photo by Richard Remington.*

... in Action

A Snowy Owl gets harassed by a Peregrine Falcon. Northerly Island, Chicago, Cook County. 29 January 2012. Photo by Richard Remington.

Snowy Owl in a defense stance at Montrose, Chicago, Cook County. 29 January 2012. Photo by Richard Remington.

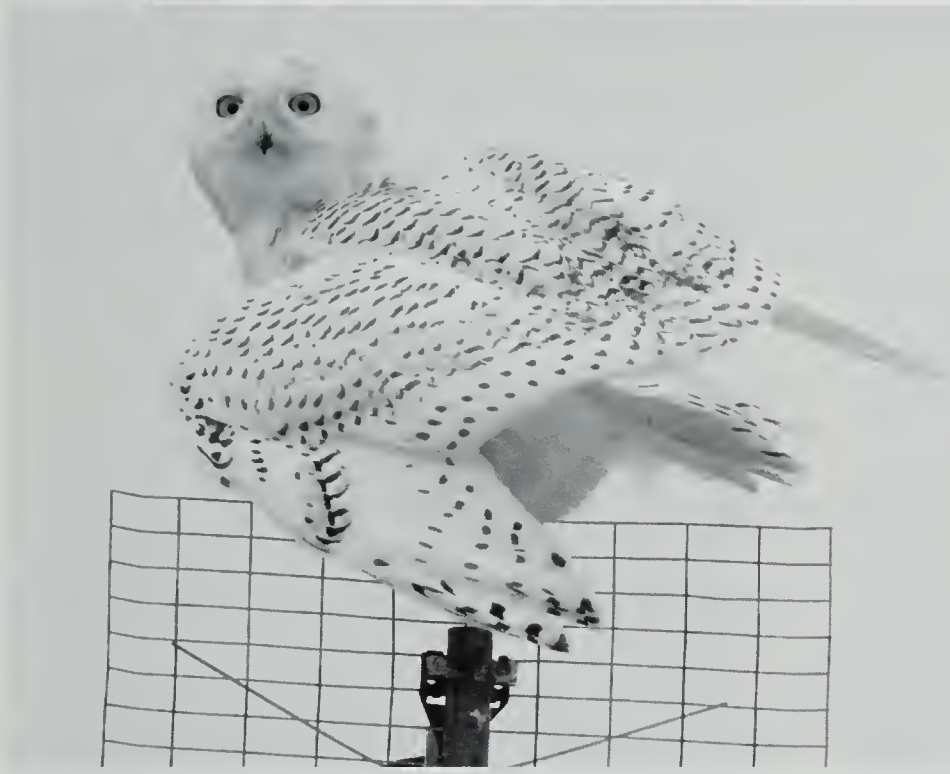
Snowy Owl reacts to an attack by a Peregrine Falcon. Northerly Island, Chicago, Cook County. 29 January 2012. Photo by Richard Remington

A Peregrine Falcon gets too close to a Snowy Owl. Northerly Island, Chicago, Cook County. 2 February 2012. Photo by Scott Ottens.

A Peregrine Falcon gets even closer to the Snowy Owl. Northerly Island, Chicago, Cook County. 2 February 2012. Photo by Scott Ottens.

A Snowy Owl appears to wink after surviving the attack by the Peregrine Falcon. Northerly Island, Chicago, Cook County. 2 February 2012. Photo by Richard Remington.

... on Location



Snowy Owl on antenna. LaSalle County. 30 December 2011. Photo by Brendon Lake.

Snowy Owl in McLean County. 1 December 2011. Photo by Benjamin Murphy.

Snowy Owl. Shawnee College Road, Pulaski County. 27 January 2012. Photo by John Schwegman.

Snowy Owl on a railroad track in Brookfield Township, LaSalle County. 5 February 2012. Photo by Bob Carper.

Snowy Owl at Montrose, Chicago, Cook County. 16 December 2011. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

... and just being Snowy Owls

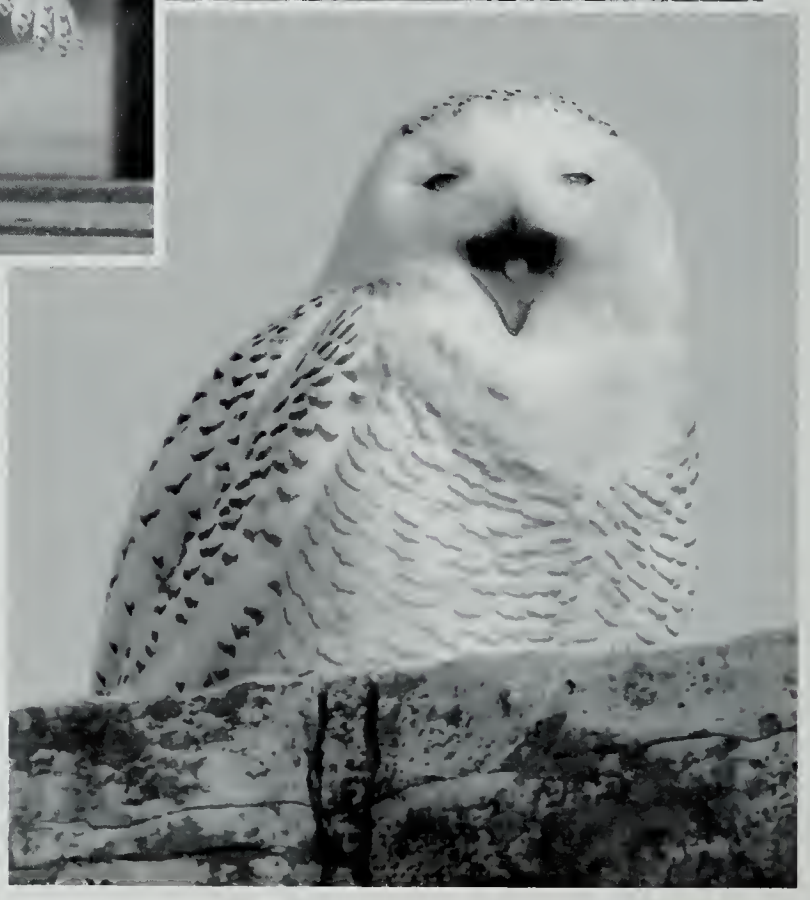
Snowy Owl and American Crow. Northerly Island, Chicago, Cook County. 28 January 2012. Photo by Richard Remington.

Snowy Owl in McHenry County. 1 April 2012. Photo by John Longhenry.

Snowy Owl at Red Bud, Randolph County. 29 January 2012. Photo by Will and Susan Harbaugh.

Snowy Owl in Waukegan, Lake County. 4 December 2011. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

Snowy Owl at Montrose, Chicago, Cook County. 12 December 2011. Photo by John Picken.



Snowy Owl at Montrose, Chicago, Cook County. 12 December 2011. Photo by John Picken.

The 2011/2012 Christmas Bird Count

By Paul W. Sweet

"Arctic" Great Horned Owl. Meredosia Island Christmas Bird Count, Spunky Bottoms Preserve, Brown County. 19 December 2011. Photo by Michael Ward.

After the cold counts Illinois birders had to contend with the last two years, an early cold snap in late November and early December must have seemed ominous. However, things warmed up nicely, and only 6 counts failed to reach the freezing mark. Surprisingly, the coldest count for the state turned out to be Lake Shelbyville, which only reached 28 degrees F on count day. On the other hand, 8 counts exceeded 50, and 15 recorded low temperatures above freezing. Needless to say, running water was open on all counts, with only 4 reporting any freezing, and only 3 counts reporting still water as completely frozen. Only 10 counts reported any snow fall, with a maximum of 3 inches at Carlyle. To counter this, 28 counts reported winds of at least 15 mph, with 16 counts dealing with winds of at least 20, and 4 reporting winds of at least 40 mph. Illini State Park reported peak winds of 48 mph. The count also followed an epic fall for western vagrants in the Midwest, so the total count of 176 species seen on count day (with 4 more count week birds) should be no surprise.

Overall, 65 counts reported this year, with 1,122 observers contributing 3467.75 party hours. Despite more observers, this was fewer party hours than last year, possibly because of the high winds so many counts had. An additional 190 feeder observers contributed 416 hours. As always, Fermilab had the most observers with 138, while Quincy reported the most feeder-watchers with 22. Three counts reached 100 species, with Union County at the top with 107. Illinois' first CBC Mountain Bluebird was at Collinsville. Other notable finds included Pacific Loon, Prairie Falcon, and Spotted Sandpiper at Clinton Lake; Lesser Yellowlegs and Dunlin at Meredosia; a California Gull at Chicago Lakefront, a Rufous Hummingbird at Chicago Urban; a Cape May Warbler at Chautauqua; and a Henslow's Sparrow photographed at Evanston.

Ducks through Herons

Greater White-fronted Goose numbers were an impressive 208 percent above the 10-year average, Snow Goose were 77 percent above, and Ross's Goose numbers were up 22 percent. Only Cackling Goose had a below-average year. Cypress Creek's 15,216 Greater White-fronted Geese alone were more than the 10-year average. Even with the impressive goose showing, this year might well be termed the year of the swan – 419 swans were reported, including 181 Mute Swans on 18 counts, 781 Tundra Swans on 11 counts (including 722 at Clinton, IA), and a record 251 Trumpeter Swans, led by Union County with 63. Most dabbling duck numbers were higher than last year, with Cypress Creek reporting impressive totals of Gadwall (1639), Northern Shoveler (1471), and Northern Pintail (2149). Clinton, IA had 6,540 Canvasback. Pere Marquette's 2,500 Ring-necked Ducks led an impressive 8450 state total, while all three scoters were reported, including lone Surf Scoters at Bloomington, Calumet, and Davenport, 8 White-winged at Waukegan, and a lone Black at Barrington. Only 1 Long-tailed Duck was reported (at Evanston). Peoria reported 880 Ruddy Ducks, leading a state total of 4,028.

Ring-necked Pheasant numbers were down drastically from last year, with only 163 reported on 25 counts, and Newton only reported 11 Greater Prairie-Chickens this year. Wild Turkeys were only slightly below last year, but only 107 Northern Bobwhite were reported on 14 counts. This is the lowest total for the species since 1941.

In addition to the Pacific Loon at Clinton Lake, lone Red-throated Loons were reported at Chicago Lakefront, Carlyle (count week), and Springfield (count week). Chicago Lakefront also had a Red-necked Grebe, while Springfield reported a count-week Eared Grebe and Carlyle had a count-week Western Grebe. Seventy-six American White Pelicans were reported on 9 counts, with a high of 56 at Muscatine. Mermet Lake had the only Great Egret, and Calumet City had 10 of the 17 Black-crowned Night-Herons reported.

Raptors through Gulls

A Turkey Vulture was still present at Schapville in Northern Illinois. Bald Eagles were down slightly from last year, likely because of the lack of ice. Four counts reported lone Golden Eagles, and 12 reported Merlin. Clinton Lake had a Prairie Falcon. A Virginia Rail was at Lisle Arboretum, while Union County reported 3 Virginia Rails and a Sora. One-thousand-eight-hundred-sixteen (1,816) Sandhill Cranes were reported on 11 counts, including 1,367 at Lisle Arboretum.

Shorebirds were very well represented, with 77 Wilson's Snipe on 13 counts, 3 American Woodcock at Mermet Lake, a Spotted Sandpiper at Clinton Lake, and lone Lesser Yellowlegs and Dunlin at Meredosia. A California Gull was reported for the second year in a row, this time on Chicago Lakefront. Eight counts reported a total of 16 Thayer's Gulls, 9 counts reported Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 6 reported Glaucous Gulls, and Calumet City reported the only 2 Great Black-backed Gulls.

Four-hundred-thirteen (413) Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported on 33 counts, a total only surpassed two years ago. Lone Barn Owls were at Carlyle and Warbluff Valley. Five counts reported Snowy Owls, including 2 at Chicago Lakefront, part of a truly impressive invasion year. Long-eared Owls were reported on 13 counts, and 20 Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported on 9 counts, including 8 at Lisle Arboretum. A female Rufous Hummingbird was still present on the Chicago Urban – the 5th in state CBC history.

Flycatchers through Weaver Finches

36 Eastern Phoebes were seen on 11 counts this year, including 1 at Chicago Urban and 2 at Barrington. Loggerhead Shrikes were up as well, with 12 on 9 counts, compared to 6 on 3 counts in 2010. Northern Shrikes were also up, with 45 seen on 19 counts, including 11 at Fermilab. One count-week White-eyed Vireo was spotted at Carlyle. A record 334,685 American Crows were counted, one of 8 species to be recorded in every count circle. The 238,000 reported at Middlefork River Valley were more than the entire state finds in most years. Two counts reported Fish Crows, with 6 at Union County.

Kankakee Valley had a lingering count-week Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Rend Lake had a Barn Swallow. Four counts reported House Wrens, 3 reported Sedge Wrens, and 4 reported Marsh Wrens. As mentioned, a Mountain Bluebird was still present at Collinsville. Five Gray Catbirds were reported on 3 counts. Brown Thrashers were reported on 16 counts.

Warblers were present in surprising numbers, including 3 Orange-crowned on 2 counts, a Cape May photographed at Chautauqua, 9 Pine Warblers on 5 counts, 2 Palm Warblers at Lisle Arboretum and one at Davenport, and lone Common Yellowthroats on 2 counts.

A Henslow's Sparrow was photographed at Evanston. Five counts reported Lincoln's Sparrows. Three counts reported solo Indigo Buntings, and Mermet Lake reported two Dickcissels. Union County reported 20 Western Meadowlarks. Twenty Brewer's Blackbirds were reported on six counts, led by the 11 at Collinsville. Thirty-eight (38) Red Crossbills were reported on six counts, with Union County in far southern Illinois reporting 22. Only two counts reported White-winged Crossbills. Only 9 counts reported Common Redpolls. The last two species moved into the area in numbers in January. Pine Siskins actually exceeded last year's total with 1070 reported on 30 counts. Only 2 counts reported Evening Grosbeaks, although Thorn Creek had a flock of 15. Eurasian Tree Sparrows were reported from 19 counts this year.

Paul W. Sweet
2114 Elisha Ave.
Zion, IL 60099

paulwsweet@att.net

LeConte's Sparrow. Shelbyville Reservoir Christmas Bird Count, Moultrie County. 2 January 2012. Photo by Rob Kanter.

Table 1: Count circles, abbreviations, weather and effort, and compilers for the 2010/2011 Christmas Bird Count in Illinois.

Count Name	Code	Date	Temp Low	Temp High	Wind Direction	Wind Low	Wind Speed High	Snow Depth	Water	Sky Conditions	Field Observers	Feeder Observers	Feeder Hours	Total Parties	Party Hours	Party Miles	Owling Hours	Owling Miles	Compiler	Area
Andalusia	ANDA	1/4/12	30	46	Southwest	0	10	0	f/o	clr/ocldv	7	0	0	3	33.5	295	11	116	Kelly I. McKay	
Barrington	BARR	12/19/11	42	47	West	9	12	0	ofz/o	clr/ocldv	28	5	8	16	72.5	231	0	0	Duane Heaton	
Calumet City - Sand Ridge	CALU	12/17/11	25	37	Southwest	10	15	0	ofz/o	cldv/mcldy	17	14	28	9	41.25	96.25	0	0	Carolyn Marsh	
Chicago Lakefront	CHLK	12/25/11	36	48	Northwest	12	30	0	o/o	clr/clr	20	0	0	5	19.5	73.5	0	0	Joel Greenberg	
Chicago Urban	CHIU	12/18/11	25	44	West	3	12	1	ofz/o	clr/clr	22	5	5	11	64	218	2	2	Jeffrey Sanders	
Clinton IA	CL IA	12/20/11	26	36	Northwest	5	10	0	o/o	cldv/cldv	11	2	4	4	38.75	342	0	0	Kelly I. McKay	
Davenport IA	DA IA	12/18/11	27	50	Southwest	0	15	0	o/o	clr/ocldv	19	9	18	6	65.5	436.75	0	0	Kelly I. McKay	
Dekalb	DEKA	12/17/11	10	43	Unknown	0	13	1	u/u	cldv/cldv	19	1	5	9	41	412	9.5	134	Mike Andrews	
Evanston North Shore	EVNS	12/26/11	28	34	Northwest	10	21	u	u/u	pcldy/ocld	18	20	31	10	77.5	72.4	0	0	Tim Wallace	N
Fermilab	FERM	12/17/11	24	30	Southwest	4	9	0.5	o/o	lsnw/cldv	138	6	12	37	188	702.75	22	53	Jeff Chapman	
Freeport	FREE	12/17/11	25	32	Southwest	0	5	2	pfz/o	lsnw/cldv	14	2	2	5	37.65	485.31	5.5	74	Richard Benning	O
Hennepin	HENN	12/15/11	38	51	West	15	25	0	o/o	cldv/cldv	8	0	0	4	35.5	274.75	4	51	John McKee	
Illini S.P.	ILLI	1/1/12	32	41	Southwest	15	48	0	o/o	ocldv/cldv	11	2	5	3	32.75	372.75	15	135	Jim Hamoson	R
Joliet	JOLI	12/17/11	29	35	Southwest	6	8	0.5	o/o	cldv/cldv	13	2	2	7	34.5	199.25			Gregory Bluhm	
Kankakee Valley	KANK	12/26/11	22	44	Southwest	0	15	0	fz/o	clr/cldv	14	4	6	9	50.5	274.25	7	69	Jed Hertz	T
Kishwaukee	KISH	12/31/11	24	39	Southwest	0	5	0	o/o	fg/cldv	34	4	7.75	15	102	738.5	8.5	30	Barbara Williams	
Lisle Arboretum	LISL	12/18/11	26	43	Southwest	5	15	0	pfz/o	fg/clr	69	10	24.25	25	173.9	524.85	19.16	42.2	Geoffrey Williamson	H
McHenry Co.	MCHE	12/17/11	25	29	Northwest	2	6	1.5	ofz/pfz	lsnw/lsnw	36	0	0	18	73.15	438.55	0.5	0	Rob Gough	
Morris-Wilmington	MOWI	1/1/12	35	39	Northwest	18	41	0	o/o	cldv/ocldv	7	1	4	4	25.5	286	0	0	Bill Morris	
Muscatine IA	MU IA	12/26/11	18	45	Southeast	5	20	0	o/fz	ocldv/cldv	11	6	12	5	53.75	483.25	0	0	Kelly I. McKay	
Princeton-Camanche IA	PC IA	12/22/11	34	37	West	5	10	0	o/o	cldv/cldv	8	1	2	4	42.75	394.75	0	0	Kelly I. McKay	
Rock Cut State Park	RCSP	12/28/11	19	30	Southeast	6	12	0	o/o	cldv/mcldy	17	0	0	4	32.5	191.8	4	50	Eddie Callaway	
Rockford	ROCK	12/17/11	26	31	Southwest	0	8	1	ofz/o	lsnw/cldv	35	11	18	18	117.75	667.75	23	168	Dan Williams	
Schapville	SCHA	12/14/11	39	52	Southwest	0	10	0	pfz/o	lrn/lrn	21	2		6	28	275	0	0	Terrence Ingram	
Starved Rock S.P.	SRSP	12/18/11	28	50	Southwest	0	14	0	o/o	clr/clr	13	2	2	6	55	382	11.5	146	John McKee	
Thorn Creek-Park Forest	TCPF	12/17/11	28	41	Southwest	0	10	0	o/o	lrn/ocldv	25	8	56	11	72.5	453	0	0	Al Thomas	
Van Petten	VPET	12/24/11	19	38	West	0	10	0	o/ofz	clr/clr	6	1	2	4	36.5	385	0	0	Kelly I. McKay	
Waukegan	WAUK	1/1/12	28	42	West	5	40	1	pfz/o	lsnw/lsnw	24	0	0	5	49.85	116.75	4	5	Joel Greenberg	
White Pines	WTPN	12/18/11	25	35	West	6	15	0	pfz/o	cldy/cldy	8	0	0	6	53.25	394.5	12	178	Eric Walters	
Bloomington - Normal	BLOM	12/17/11	28	40	West	5	10	0	o/o	cldy/cldy	18	0	0	11	52	214	0	0	Dale Birkenholz	
Bushnell	BUSH	12/17/11	26	40	Southwest	5	12	0	pfz/o	clr/ocldv	6	0	0	3	25.5	234	0	0	Larry L. Hood	C
Champaign County	CHAM	12/17/11	24	40	Southwest	1	7	0	pfz/o	cldv/mcldy	19	1	3	9	49.75	243.98	0	0	Helen Parker	
Chautauqua N.W.R.	CHAU	12/23/11	23	31	Northwest	5	14	0	o/o	ocldv/cldv	12	1	2	6	51.75	361	2.5	16	Richard Biorklund	E
Chillicothe	CHIL	12/31/11	34	42	Unknown	5	10	0	o/o	cldv/cldv	14	0	0	7	59.5	373	0	0	Tracy Meints Fox	
Clinton Lake	CLLK	12/18/11	24	50	Southwest	10	29	0	pfz/o	mcldy/clr	12	0	0	5	44.25	252.72	6.3	7	Rhetta Jack	
Coles-Cumberland	COCU	12/17/11	28	41	Southwest	5	10	0	ofz/o	ocldv/ocld	17	6	15.5	9	35.25	168.5	1	0	Laurence Thorsen	N
Crane Lake-Sangamon	CRLK	12/17/11	28	43	Southwest	0	5	0	o/o	clr/clr	10	0	0	6	38	219.5	0	0	Robert Randall	
Decatur	DECA	12/17/11	28	40	Northeast	2	16	0	o/o	ocldv/pcld	24	5	9.25	14	43.25	203.9	2.5	68	Ross Thompson	T
Eastern Knox Co.	EKNX	12/15/11	36	42	West	10	30	0	o/o	cldv/cldv	9	0	0	6	45.62	487.5	11	116	Jim Mountjoy	
Eastern Mercer Co.	EMER	1/3/12	9	37	South	0	15	0	ofz/ofz	clr/ocldv	7	0	0	4	38	322.75	11	102	Cathleen Monson	
Forest Glen Preserve	FGPR	12/28/11	22	36	Southwest	0	9	0	o/o	clr/cldv	13	2	1.5	7	54.5	319	0	0	Marilyn Camobell	R
Meredosia Island	MERE	12/16/11	45	51	Northwest	5	10	0	o/o	lrn/cldv	12	0	0	6	49.5	437.5	0	0	Tony Ward	
Middle Fork River Valley	MFRV	1/1/12	30	46	West	20	40	0	o/o	cldv/lrn	17	0	0	12	67.5	316.9	2	30	Steven Bailey	A
Peoria	PEOR	12/17/11	28	43	Calm	0	0	0	o/o	mcldy/clr	15	3	18	8	62.7	407.4	4	5	L.H. Princen	
Quincy	QUIN	12/17/11	27	37	Southwest	7	17	0	ofz/o	clr/clr	14	22	29.2	7	49.5	413.5	2	12	Ken Heinze	L
Schuy - Rush	RUSH	12/28/11	27	41	Variable	3	8	0	o/o	ocldv/pcld	6	6	8	3	5	28	2	3	Harold Hedden	
Springfield	SPFD	12/18/11	24	52	Southwest	10	22	0	o/o	clr/clr	10	14	28	9	60	351	5	34	H. David Bohlen	
Western Mercer Co.	WMER	12/15/11	34	43	Northwest	15	25	0	o/o	cldy/cldy	12	0	0	5	51	406	18	138	Kelly I. McKay	
Baldwin Lake	BALK	12/19/11	28	47	West	3	7	0	o/o	pcldy/pcld	11	2	3	5	39.73	229.4	1.8	72	Tim Dever	
Bird Haven Sanctuary	BIRD	12/17/11	24	42	Northwest	5	15	0	o/ofz	lsnw/ocldy	6	1	2	6	48	345	25	5	Frank Storment	
Carlyle Lake	CALK	12/27/11	25	40	Northwest	5	15	3	o/o	hsnw/cldv	12	0	0	7	70	490	12	300	Dan Kassebaum	
Collinsville	COLL	12/17/11	27	48	West	6	25	0	o/o	clr/ocldv	9	0	0	4	35.5	284.7	0	0	Frank Holmes	
Crab Orchard N.W.R.	CROR	12/18/11	27	53	Northeast	2	9	0	pfz/o	clr/clr	12	0	0	4	38	145	8	24	Mike Brown	S
Cypress Creek	CYCR	12/18/11	48	53	East	5	10	0	o/o	lrn/pcldv	15	0	0	8	67.8	283.9	0	0	Jeff Hoover	
Elsah	ELSA	12/17/11	30	40	Calm	0	0	0	u/u	clr/clr	4	1	8	2	4	2	0	0	Mary Jane Hoff	O
Horseshoe Lake	HSLK	12/28/11	30	53	Northwest	3	5	0	o/o	ocldv/ocld	14	0	0	9	71.5	359.5	3	0	Vernon Kleen	
Jackson Co.	JACK	1/1/12	36	55	Northwest	18	20	0	o/o	ocldv/clr	9	0	0	5	46.25	317	3	44	Rhonda S. Rothrock	U
Mermet Lake	MRLK	12/30/11	48	57	Southwest	13	24	0	o/o	ocldv/clr	13	1	2	7	56.75	323.25	1	4	Frank Bennett	
Middle Mississippi NWR	MMWR	12/17/11	40	46	East	5	10	0	o/o	cldv/cldv	6	0	0	2	20	170	0	0	John Hartleb	T
Monroe County	MONR	12/16/11	32	42	North	3	8	0	o/o	ocldv/mcld	5	5	28.5	5	22.5	233.5	2	2	Carl Daubach	
Newton	NEWT	12/23/11	36	39	Northwest	5	15	0	o/o	cldv/cldv	11	0	0	6	36.5	335	6	70	Jeff Walk	H
Pere Marquette Park	PEMR	12/17/11	24	45	Northeast	0	10	0	pfz/ofz	clr/pcldv	16	0	0	1	51.6	306.25	2	1	Robert Thomas	
Rend Lake	RDLK	12/17/11	23	48	Southwest	2	10	0	o/o	clr/mcldy	10	0	0	5	43.75	423.5	20	254	Keith A. McMullen	
Shelbyville Reservoir	SHEL	1/2/12	16	28	Northwest	10	30	1	pfz/o	lsnw/lsnw	15	0	0	7	67.5	537.25	4	100	Travis Mahan	
Union Co.	UNION	12/29/11	29	42	South	5	15	0	o/o	ocldv/ocld	22	0	0	11	87	428	12	12	Vernon Kleen	
Warbluff Valley	WRBV	12/17/11	22	46	Southwest	0	10	0	o/o	clr/pcldy	12	2	4	6	30	178	0	0	Andrea Douglas	

Table 2: Count data for Northern Illinois (north of I-80)

Species Name	ANDA	BARR	CALU	CHIU	CHLK	CL IA	DA IA	DEKA	EVNS	FERM	FREE	HENN	ILLI	JOLI	KANK	KISH	LISL	MCHE	MOWI	MU IA	PC IA	RCSP	ROCK	SCHA	SRSP	TCPF	VANP	WAUK	WTPN
Greater White-fronted Goose										30			706							750					17				
Snow Goose	1	1		1				1								2				164			2						
Snow Goose (white form)		1			1																		1						
Snow Goose (blue form)																	1						1						
Ross's Goose								1														1	1						
Cackling Goose		10		3	7		54	143	7	143	235		42	57		138	22	3		23		101	202			2	14	8	17
Canada Goose	1042	4281	1122	2362	1838	703	4069	4855	5383	14634	1204	454	1711	2394	820	7353	2768	6077	490	1395	671	5712	7298	45	939	5357	1812	3664	1490
Mute Swan		7	7	2										14	2			8					3					11	
Trumpeter Swan			5			21	3													6	47								
Tundra Swan						722						3	4	5		1		12											
swan sp.										3																			
Wood Duck	2	11	1	3			2		2	3					1					1	3				4	2		2	
Gadwall	1		24	4		9	7			2		6		322		4	149	1	67				1					2	
American Wigeon						1				6																			
American Black Duck	3	3	10	4		18	1		5	26		3	143	3	8	20	6	2	6		3	2	12					15	
Mallard	253	353	724	1257	56	762	989	747	1230	2261	181	2967	7551	694	566	1616	901	872	519	354	192	260	1558	44	137	319	150	356	15
Blue-winged Teal																										1			
Northern Shoveler		150	65			72	1			31		17		12					6							10			
Northern Pintail			1			2	6					1	2			5	3			1	1								
Green-winged Teal		1	1							1		6		21			2	12											
Canvasback			21		2	6540	2									1						1		1			1		
Redhead			36	1	16	5	2		39	2			2							1								10	
Ring-necked Duck	1		4	1		18	6			1							21		2	4			2					1	
Greater Scaup			45		149	5	4		132	1																		309	
Lesser Scaup	24		79	1	2	605	36		2	1		880		1					17	9						3			
scaup sp.			50						5																			10	
Surf Scoter			1				1																						
White-winged Scoter																												8	
Black Scoter		1																											
dark-winged scoter sp.																												5	
Long-tailed Duck									1																				
Bufflehead			3	24	31	60	11		8			4		3			2	1			1	2				1	29	
Common Goldeneye	104	20	27	79	109	4250	311		350	261		5		5		6	10	7	7	3	11	8	1		1	54	147	1
Hooded Merganser		21	21	17	5	5	3		10	10		11		29	3		5			1							17	
Common Merganser	12	4	3	0	66	421	12	15	110	190		15	13	2		19	184		20	3				31			137	4
Red-breasted Merganser			1173	2	1727	1	1		625							1	29		3								95	
merganser sp.																												25	
Ruddy Duck		7	9	1	1	250	7					1			1		3				4		2						
Mallard X Northern Pintail			1																										
duck sp.												60																	
Ring-necked Pheasant			cw					1		5	2	1	1	3	2				7			1				5		1
Wild Turkey	12					12	40	4		14	37	18	132		4	4		17		63	24	26	231	72	28				cw
Northern Bobwhite	1											12																	
Red-throated Loon					1																								
Common Loon														1				1										1	
Pied-billed Grebe			3	7	1							1		5	1		1		7							1	1	
Horned Grebe			6	1	5				2								1										2	
Red-necked Grebe					1																								
American White Pelican							2					1		1						56									
Double-crested Cormorant		2	31	3		2	4		1	1			17	47			1		7							1	8	cw
Great Blue Heron	3	13	6	10	1	14	34	1	9	27		8	8	18	3	3	13	10	4	6	3	1	5		15	2		2	1
Black-crowned Night-Heron			10	6						1																			
Turkey Vulture																								cw					
Bald Eagle	89	2	2	cw		87	56	2		6	22	55	13	4	0	10	2	3	11	118	71	5	35	13	49		21	4	9
Northern Harrier	3					2		3		25			3	1	4	1		4	7	3			9	cw	1	10	1		1
Sharp-shinned Hawk		2						2	3	7		2		4	3	1	5	2	2	1	2		4	cw		3	2	1	2
Cooper's Hawk	2	12	10	10	2	3	8	9	18	23	1	1	3	8	8	8	16	5	4	3		1	21	2	2	11	3	1	5
Accipiter sp.																					1								
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1				1					2					1				1				1		1		
Red-tailed Hawk	50	65	28	16	3	34	79	37	30	131	38	42	22	43	27	32	117	55	37	53	27	17	82	35	56	66	19	20	48
Rough-legged Hawk	2	3		cw		3			1		3	2			1	1			3	2	1		4	1			2		2
Golden Eagle																					1	1							
American Kestrel	1	6	14	3	1	10	29	20		8	18	10	6	12	18	16	12	5	8	23	30	4	21	16	29	15	8	1	12
Merlin				2					cw						2		1											2	1
Peregrine Falcon			2	1	1		1		1	1				2			1											1	
Virginia Rail																	1												
American Coot		8	262	70	39	9			1	20		11	24	29	4		12	21				2	1			10		28	
Sandhill Crane			cw			S	10			6					cw		1367	241			3		6			176			
Killdeer	1		2	2		8	2							1			1	2								2			

Table 2: Count data for Northern Illinois (north of I-80), *continued*

Species Name	ANDA	BARR	CALU	CHIU	CHLK	CL IA	DA IA	DEKA	EVNS	FERM	FREE	HENN	ILLI	JOLI	KANK	KISH	LISL	MCHE	MOWI	MU IA	PC IA	RCSP	ROCK	SCHA	SRSP	TCPF	VANP	WAUK	WTPN
Wilson's Snipe				1						9		1					1						1						
Bonaparte's Gull							1																						
Ring-billed Gull	326	262	475	205	695	1213	3631	3	491	173		51	84	188	64	59	273	74	1256	140	49	17	48		240	12	247	371	7
California Gull					1																								
Herring Gull	12	56	166	9	1230	10	90		427	59			8	28	2	16	65	14	11	2	1	68	37		20	1	7	491	11
Thayer's Gull			1	1	6		1		3																		1	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1				3				2													0							
Glaucous Gull			3		1		3		2																	2			
Great Black-backed Gull			2																										
gull sp.		74	250	10					10								6								89			10	3
Rock Pigeon	216	133	339	2400	19	120	1348	154	183	273	278	54	108	275	589	773	765	291	71	129	89	109	555	84	731	596	474	84	190
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1			7		21				1		10		11	1	9					23			9	19		3		
Mourning Dove	22	168	157	107		36	460	423	282	957	544	5	62	419	340	168	1190	221	7	238	63	46	836	53	27	482	30	55	117
Monk Parakeet			91	11	1																								
Eastern Screech-Owl	7			1		3	6	1	7	27			1		5	4	16	1		11	6		2	cw	1	1	8		7
Great Horned Owl	2	6	2	3		3	12	10	10	32			1	6	8	8	12	6		22	7	4	11	3	6	5	12	1	11
Snowy Owl				1	2								1														1	
Barred Owl	7					4	19	3	2	6			3	1	1	6	2	1	1	9	1	2	8		4	2	3		1
Long-eared Owl		9		1	1		1			12					1						1					1	2		
Short-eared Owl										7			1													12			
Northern Saw-whet Owl										3					1	1	8										1		3
Rufous Hummingbird				1																							1		
Belted Kingfisher	5	14	3	4		7	7	8	10	11	2	3	2	2	3	13	16	3	1	2	5	3	12	7	3	1		3	2
Red-headed Woodpecker	12		cw			7	14			3				1	2	2	1			10	8		15	0		4	2	1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	60	62	14	48		49	93	42	71	208	14	60	13	17	37	72	170	41	14	56	63	35	161	14	50	39	18	21	58
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2		1			3	3			9						2	2			1		1			1	1	1		
Downy Woodpecker	47	111	67	120	2	57	166	88	122	306	18	45	29	65	49	129	215	68	14	75	74	76	266	27	50	61	50	19	60
Hairy Woodpecker	21	23	6	39	1	17	36	9	33	93	3	15	7	4	17	34	74	15	7	22	31	9	59	8	5	2	11	10	10
Northern Flicker	2	13	1	4		8	10	4	6	14	3	9	2	5	9	29	21	4	2	13	45	16	52	5	11	1	5	3	10
Pileated Woodpecker	7					4	7					6	1		3		5			13	1	1	6	0	4		1		6
Eastern Phoebe		2		1																									
Northern Shrike	2	5						1	1	11	1				cw		3	1	1			2	7	2			1		2
Blue Jay	131	49	23	8		150	135	56	33	87	58	46	17	22	91	102	162	52		150	139	38	253	81	44	71	111	11	117
American Crow	93	118	158	128	318	181	179	146	97	154	261	169	60	70	251	1722	93	362	82	228	113	111	1272	297	168	55	450	82	295
Horned Lark	29	3				9	10	452	3	146	689	1	51	22	62	28		6	26	3	12		287		206	56	77		159
Northern Rough-winged Swallow															cw														
Black-capped Chickadee	221	389	47	175	10	131	480	173	407	987	63	146	69	100	49	541	679	263	37	303	183	247	565	93	120	129	65	89	258
Tufted Titmouse	46		2			24	41	5	2	6	9	24	16	1	23	71	11	1	3	49	8	9	34	55	61	20			S6
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	3		3		1		1	5	1					cw	1	6	6			2	9	5			1	1	1	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	103	54	20	46		73	175	75	135	208	32	67	28	26	51	191	278	56	10	142	95	56	226	35	70	76	34	27	98
Brown Creeper	12	18	2	55		21	40	32	10	61		13	5	3	2	64	15	6	3	9	18	20	30	0	11	1	5	4	32
Carolina Wren	3	1				7	12						2		7	4	3			3	1				2	1			2
Winter Wren		2					5		1	3		1	1		1	1				3	1		1			1		1	
Sedge Wren										1																			
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	7	cw	2		6	7			3		4	2			6	4		1	4	3				6		7		7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1						1					2										3			1		1		3
Eastern Bluebird	8	48				11	20		18	39		18	1	4	cw	20	73	26	2	8	23	13	38	16	15	3	16	4	42
Hermit Thrush							1		1	4		1					1	2		1	2	3	1				3		
American Robin	3	395	4	276	4	2	4	6	660	161	1	1		5	119	14	418	36	25	7	3	69	13		15	31	7	197	3
Gray Catbird										1																			
Northern Mockingbird			1	2																					1				
Brown Thrasher															1														
European Starling	1515	3645	1150	1600	247	2015	2820	1582	873	3533	1106	732	755	1680	2857	2311	1808	716	1023	1925	1537	403	2871	379	7178	1743	1640	1273	1557
American Pipit																1													
Cedar Waxwing	49	182		13		151	17		77	257	1			97	19	98	229	127		53	35	346	57	57		80	39	42	45
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4	7		7		3	4		10	5		17				21	14				4	19	5					2	6
Palm Warbler							1										2												
Eastern Towhee							1			1																			
American Tree Sparrow	190	220	236	91	6	233	524	157	238	2253	191	139	67	199	113	207	649	535	89	229	462	135	1862	94	166	263	232	202	178
Chipping Sparrow																										9			
Field Sparrow							1			1					1						1			5					
Savannah Sparrow									1	19		1		9				1											
Henslow's Sparrow									1																				
Le Conte's Sparrow									1																				
Ammodramus sp.										1																			
Fox Sparrow		4	2	1		1				12				1	2		9	1											
Song Sparrow	3	52	24	16	1	11	109	12	9	82	3	11	8	23	15	17	53	23	5	18	24	1	47		22	15	15	8	3
Lincoln's Sparrow							3			1																			
Swamp Sparrow		14	2	2	10	7	26		3	50		10		5			18	3		5	5		7		7		6	3	2

Table 2: Count data for Northern Illinois (north of I-80), *continued*

Species Name	ANDA	BARR	CALU	CHIU	CHLK	CL IA	DA IA	DEKA	EVNS	FERM	FREE	HENN	ILLI	JOLI	KANK	KISH	LISL	MCHE	MOWI	MU IA	PC IA	RCSP	ROCK	SCHA	SRSP	TCPF	VANP	WAUK	WTPN
White-throated Sparrow	6	41	4	18	5	7	14	6	20	91		22	3	3	29	13	47	7		5	11		5	4	22	5	3	4	1
Harris' Sparrow																					1								
White-crowned Sparrow	5	41	6	1		2	1	4		25	1	6	11	31	3	4	6		12	3	1		1	2	3	7	1		
Dark-eyed Junco	309	478	172	314	7	315	846	463	432	1454	809	282	236	276	243	1252	970	438	107	394	429	237	2074	297	242	447	318	163	481
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco			1													1													
Lapland Longspur	2					2		171			691		290	24	16				107		4		444		122		2		40
Snow Bunting	2				2	6		87	2	34	42				20		7				3		7				2	3	3
Northern Cardinal	192	180	77	167	28	174	368	206	211	759	122	95	56	100	158	374	384	218	32	231	191	129	513	79	109	242	146	66	135
Indigo Bunting					1																								
Red-winged Blackbird	31	196	133			2011	12359	4	2	279		3	317	3	10		8	25	6		31				16066	13	23	1	4
Eastern Meadowlark																	1												
meadowlark sp.		3																											
Yellow-headed Blackbird						1																							
Rusty Blackbird	1					1	1			3			30										1			22	1		
Brewer's Blackbird										1													1						
Common Grackle	1	5	1	1		1	38		1				6218		2	1					1				11311	4	1		cw
Brown-headed Cowbird	501	9	11	1		500	27	10	2	8	4	39	32	22	22	12	5		20	1	18		42		11594	10	117		26
blackbird sp.												90													4000				
Purple Finch	38	12		3		11	11		2	4		5		14	1	3	12			16	10	1	13	24			19		1
House Finch	6	152	204	151	18	17	94	140	141	599	34	15	86	91	100	283	148	87	6	41	55	64	430	52	66	77	32	41	107
Red Crossbill																				2			8						1
White-winged Crossbill																							3					1	
Common Redpoll	11			2			1		3	1						1	5												
Pine Siskin	4	53	3	8			8	57	52	164	37			9	cw	91	162	11		8	10	3	224	1	3		1	18	60
American Goldfinch	65	235	182	229	4	27	188	113	347	497	22	47	60	89	100	269	427	183	35	110	112	58	596	173	56	173	74	81	73
Evening Grosbeak																							1			15			
House Sparrow	709	572	1036	1400	10	462	1288	418	731	753	907	290	153	132	847	967	603	414	140	630	1300	151	1897	207	416	565	322	138	278
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	86						34													256	267						12		
Total	74	70	78	77	50	82	91	51	76	93	39	70	60	70	66	70	83	61	53	69	73	54	75	38	59	61	71	71	64

Orange-crowned Warbler.
Champaign County
Christmas Bird Count,
U of I Arboretum, Urbana.
Photo by Greg Lambeth.

Pine Warbler.
Clinton Lake Christmas Bird Count,
Clinton Lake State Recreation Area,
DeWitt County.
18 December 2011.
Photo by Rob Kanter.

Table 3: Count data for Central Illinois (between I-70 and I-80)

Species Name	BLOM	BUSH	CHAM	CHAU	CHIL	CLLK	COCU	CRLK	DECA	EKNX	EMER	FGPR	MERE	PEOR	QUIN	RUSH	SPFD	WMER
Greater White-fronted Goose	2	867		563	94	384		207	140			86	6457	1			1210	
Snow Goose	8		1	527				3544					2670	1			4615	
Ross's Goose													10				1	
Cackling Goose	125		2	88	2					2	3						5	
Canada Goose	2102	782	896	3173	2419	946	410	1572	702	284	1965	258	557	1234	1547	51	1367	1533
Mute Swan	4		1	87					3								13	
Trumpeter Swan		14	6	7			4			cw			39			14		
Tundra Swan				2				8							6			
Wood Duck			2		4		1	1					5				11	1
Gadwall	1			257	55	7	5	458	12	60			56		4		154	
American Wigeon	2			22	12	3	2						3				4	1
American Black Duck	5			26	18	11	2	21	2	cw			4	2			2	4
Mallard	311	82	314	2732	7311	4923	125	2959	512	305	26	8	2470	306	290	14	728	3513
Blue-winged Teal						53								1			1	
Northern Shoveler	36				14	12	1	126	13	cw			13	44	30		42	1
Northern Pintail	2			32	13	3	2	137					5		1			1
Green-winged Teal				313	92		1	200		1			18	1			15	1
Canvasback					8			51						1	2		28	
Redhead				10				7							2			
Ring-necked Duck	1			21	10	1	30	436	1	cw				11	7		4	
Lesser Scaup	5			2	180		27	31	8	5				33	9		25	
Surf Scoter	1																	
Bufflehead	6			17	8	3	17	30	2	cw			12		13		38	
Common Goldeneye	2			17	71	44	11	5	353	2	3			88	1		122	1
Hooded Merganser	2			32		121	cw	37	2	1		1	7		2		72	
Common Merganser	1		4	5		14	5		19	cw			1		21		11	
Red-breasted Merganser						3	cw	5									1	
Ruddy Duck	3			651	4		cw	124		3			6	880			165	
duck sp.															1			
Ring-necked Pheasant	5		60		2	6	5		10	2		2	4					2
Wild Turkey	38			17	2		29	25	15	8		41	13	73	76	7	32	43
Northern Bobwhite							21	1			10		1					
Red-throated Loon																	cw	
Pacific Loon						1												
Common Loon						4			1								1	
Pied-billed Grebe				16		46	16	2	8	1		3	1	1	1		19	
Horned Grebe				1		6	4										5	
Eared Grebe																	cw	
American White Pelican					1													1
Double-crested Cormorant				27		7									1		1	2
Great Blue Heron	3	1	4	41	15	13	8	10	16	3		2	46	8	12		32	16
Turkey Vulture							37		3			1		2			5	
Bald Eagle	2	1		52	63	7	3	71	5	7	1	3	102	38	51	5	21	130
Northern Harrier	4	3	1	6	5	1	1	13		2	3		7		4		1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	1	4	4	1			1	2	1		2	2	3		2	1
Cooper's Hawk	6	4	8	5	8		6	4	5	2	2	5	2	2	3		11	
Red-shouldered Hawk									2			6	1		2		1	
Red-tailed Hawk	43	16	29	45	58	21	32	30	17	31	65	31	27	52	44	5	45	37
Rough-legged Hawk		3	1	3	2	1	2			2	1	3	1		5			1
Golden Eagle								1										1
American Kestrel	22	20	11	23	17	12	14	19	16	10	22	17	32	15	35	3	26	25
Merlin	1						1	1					1					
Peregrine Falcon			1	1											1		2	
Prairie Falcon						1												
American Coot	1			542	7	3	38	160	18	1							142	
Killdeer					2	1	1	1	25				5	1	5		4	1
Spotted Sandpiper						1												
Lesser Yellowlegs													1					
Dunlin													1					
Wilson's Snipe						1		1					7		2			
Bonaparte's Gull				81		22	6		29				1				80	
Ring-billed Gull	67			297	1279	3169	64	131	2688	cw		1	311	3423	536		1784	153
Herring Gull	1			3	104	14		1	201				1	52	13	2	10	10
Thayer's Gull					1													
Lesser Black-backed Gull						1											cw	
Glaucous Gull					1													
Rock Pigeon	676	24	465	9	158	9	56	17	377	34	84	272	83	1266	270	4	1011	84
Eurasian Collared-Dove	10			10	30	43			10	2	2		72		3		6	2
Mourning Dove	359	207	194	76	91	178	75	36	78	24	66	145	197	238	234	5	417	34
Eastern Screech-Owl	1		10	2	4	4	1	1	1		7		3	4	1		7	1
Great Horned Owl	2	cw	6	5	4	3	3	1	1	cw	13	1	8	1			8	5
Snowy Owl									1									
Barred Owl	7	2	2	9	2	16	3	2	5	cw	19	4	3	4	4		3	9
Long-eared Owl			1															1
Short-eared Owl			1					1	1	cw		2	1					
Northern Saw-whet Owl											1							1
Belted Kingfisher	7	1	3	4	3	5	4	2	8	1	3	6	2		6		5	2
Red-headed Woodpecker	14	10	3	14	11		14	4		17	14	19	1	1	4	2	5	6
Red-bellied Woodpecker	38	24	56	109	125	42	52	52	30	40	85	67	62	118	61	6	80	40
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			5	1	1		1					3	3	1	1		2	
Downy Woodpecker	86	18	60	92	121	29	58	33	33	33	91	42	110	111	73	10	70	32
Hairy Woodpecker	8	4	13	9	20	9	6	9	2	11	21	7	17	9	26	4	12	12
Northern Flicker	9	4	9	16	10	14	5	21	5	2	11	5	24	7	16	2	13	5

Table 3: Count data for Central Illinois (between I-70 and I-80) *continued*

Species Name	BLOM	BUSH	CHAM	CHAU	CHIL	CLLK	COCU	CRLK	DECA	EKNX	EMER	FGPR	MERE	PEOR	QUIN	RUSH	SPFD	WMER
Pileated Woodpecker		2	5	9	10		8	10	4	2		19	19	8	6	3	12	6
Eastern Phoebe										cw								
Loggerhead Shrike																		1
Northern Shrike								1		2	1							2
Blue Jay	193	97	66	359	221	68	93	87	62	49	240	167	200	122	124	23	161	49
American Crow	1982	91	1300	545	309	122	540	41	184	236	256	70098	117	1093	101	9	6250	119
Horned Lark		11	15	25	28	9	17	14	19	25	31	81	24	3	13		6	2
Carolina Chickadee			43				94					106						
Black-capped Chickadee	156	36	4	143	339	80		55	66	73	242		147	370	108	13	124	128
chickadee sp.															9			
Tufted Titmouse	40	11	20	85	118	26	79	56	45	39	22	137	62	127	87	11	87	32
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4		2	1		1	1		3		2	1					1	
White-breasted Nuthatch	82	24	41	131	144	50	134	27	47	27	123	96	46	142	84	10	86	32
Brown Creeper	5	1	1	14	9	1		7	1	4	15		3	2	2		7	7
Carolina Wren	6	1	14	4	9	9	12	13	9	2		6	22	10	6	1	31	1
Winter Wren					1			1		1			1					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5			26	8	10	2	6			4		3				5	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				7		1		1					1					
Eastern Bluebird	29	11	18	3	34	12	58		4	1	28	24	12	2	8	1	2	2
Hermit Thrush			4	1				1		cw	4	1	5	1				
American Robin	31		54	31		28	40	3	115	cw		8	82	18	43		35	
Northern Mockingbird				1			2	1	1		1		2	1	1		2	
Brown Thrasher												1			1			
European Starling	1763	361	1145	23283	9390	205	368	316	450	6911	1820	1332	746	1814	1554	21	4284	506
American Pipit						1												
Cedar Waxwing	73		16	68	5	9	4		14	cw	4		179	5	75		4	30
Orange-crowned Warbler			2														1	
Cape May Warbler				1														
Yellow-rumped Warbler			12	10	5	9						1	3				1	5
Pine Warbler						1												
Eastern Towhee					1		1					4						
American Tree Sparrow	293	134	136	247	193	167	58	317	52	56	456	148	292	98	101	10	248	92
Field Sparrow			6				1	4	20	1			7	1	2		7	
Savannah Sparrow			3	1		9		12					11		7		14	
Le Conte's Sparrow						7		2					2					
Fox Sparrow	2	1	1								1	3	3	1			1	
Song Sparrow	14	16	27	29	32	23	22	78	8	7	34	11	131	29	17	2	87	23
Lincoln's Sparrow															2			
Swamp Sparrow	8	1	12	6	4	14	1	31		3	6		46	8	1		11	4
White-throated Sparrow	23	7	43	21	33	21	28	6	9	4	15	8	102	40	22		14	
White-crowned Sparrow	1	4	90		2		27	13	5		8		17	3	17		14	6
Dark-eyed Junco	208	144	168	507	510	108	169	324	99	171	807	298	257	474	347	31	382	280
Lapland Longspur						1				cw	2		1					5
Snow Bunting											2							
Northern Cardinal	162	75	189	270	220	93	159	161	94	50	277	241	369	181	271	20	285	194
Red-winged Blackbird	4		27	1256	1	8	75	76		1070	608	1	111	262			266	31
Eastern Meadowlark				2		1	26	22					15		6			
Rusty Blackbird								13		cw							25	
Common Grackle		cw	2		1	6	12	1	1	314	10		40	60	4		143	
Brown-headed Cowbird	7		21	87	12	2	11	1		956	540		3	1045			137	
blackbird sp.			11							550								
Purple Finch			9	14	21	4			2	2	3	11	5	4	17	6		28
House Finch	87	5	183	28	97	3	15	1	10	5	115	18	12	31	59	1	50	5
Red Crossbill				4							1							
Common Redpoll											6							
Pine Siskin	2		11			48				2	1				4		15	
American Goldfinch	41	53	190	163	150	51	54	65	83	65	98	51	94	57	169	67	122	47
House Sparrow	370	178	427	216	450	256	285	216	411	94	849	677	437	653	850	32	650	301
Eurasian Tree Sparrow		73		225	2			195		3	311		140	84	73	8	13	590
Total	**72**	**44**	**68**	**87**	**80**	**84**	**76**	**84**	**70**	**60**	**61**	**55**	**92**	**68**	**78**	**33**	**93**	**67**

This Sandhill Crane pair nested at Heron County Park, Vermilion County in the summer of 2011 and then remained throughout the Christmas Bird Count season of 2011/2012. 1 January 2012. Photo by Bob Schifo.

Table 4: Count data for Southern Illinois (south of I-70)

Species Name	BALK	BIRD	CALK	COLL	CROR	CYCR	ELSA	HSLK	JACK	MRLK	MMWR	MONR	NEWT	PEMR	RDLK	SHEL	UNION	WRBV
Greater White-fronted Goose	592	24	14	3	840	15216		10000	100	32	61	38	55	133	1541	8	6000	50
Snow Goose	29275	15	112620		75	50945		50000	1703	555	1192	265	300	4257	19545		35000	222
Snow Goose (white form)							6							2838				
Snow Goose (blue form)														1419				
Ross's Goose			4		1			24	1	4	2	18			4		31	
Cackling Goose	2		4		2			6					12				65	
Canada Goose	985	829	155	383	412	107		500	545	137	115	119	303	1887	165	821	600	62
Mute Swan	1		3	3									3					
Trumpeter Swan			10					9					3				63	
Tundra Swan						12											6	
swan sp																2		
Wood Duck			2		4	10		10	1		3	2		3			60	
Gadwall	86		3	330	988	1639		1586	24	6	5	18	23	398	77	5	375	
American Wigeon	32		2		17	181		76						30	15	cw	33	
American Black Duck	5		1		9	10		8				22	44	10	3	2	16	
Mallard	429		128	258	2236	19483		3000	67	191	195	2446	349	8231	819	210	3000	5
Northern Shoveler		21	50	61	54	1471		324		9	1	37		118	12	18	100	
Northern Pintail	19		11		2	2149		81				7		224	24	1	60	
Green-winged Teal	12			2		170		64				12	4	99	85		83	
Canvasback			2	8	33	1		14		1			1	37	11	1	400	
Redhead			cw			2		8							31	cw	8	
Ring-necked Duck	41	16	2	12	1055	1021		2000		11			13	2500	21		1200	
Greater Scaup			1							4						2		
Lesser Scaup	17	17	26	32	19	76		3		17		6	13	11	9	41	16	
Bufflehead	8	4	29	1	113				1				36	18	9	14	1	
Common Goldeneye	6	1	352	7	15					4			8	103	87	92		
Hooded Merganser	69	37	18	111	50	31		17		1		16	1	21	73	2	23	2
Common Merganser		cw	8		15								1	4		8		3
Red-breasted Merganser			4	5	4								1		22	2		
Ruddy Duck	128	75	37	46	707				26	20		2	2	675	38	11	400	
duck sp.														476				
Ring-necked Pheasant			16			1									2	22		
Greater Prairie-Chicken													11					
Wild Turkey	28	27	122	9	52	9		3		32	10	19	54	20	112	10	41	14
Northern Bobwhite	3	4			8	11				18		6	10					1
Red-throated Loon			cw															
Common Loon		1	1		4										6	5		
Pied-billed Grebe	21	21	20	2	49	10		10	32	14		2	8	4	71	2	14	1
Horned Grebe	8	5	6	2	3								4		11			
Western Grebe			cw															
American White Pelican	1		1											12				
Double-crested Cormorant	1	cw	56	5	7			1						1	373	1		
Great Blue Heron	32	6	193	8	28	17		37	5	19	33	33	14	45	85	20	59	3
Great Egret										1								
Black Vulture					2	164		71	151	124		1					30	88
Turkey Vulture	2	16	3		4	285		324	19	152	13	29	3	8			64	108
Bald Eagle	9	3	34		7	7	5	37	11	4	25	93	12	105	19	30	64	3
Northern Harrier	9	5	15	1	1	49		12	4	5	4	16	13	10	9	6	31	9
Sharp-shinned Hawk	cw		2		2	3		6	1	1	1	1		1	2	1	5	1
Cooper's Hawk	4	5	3	6	1	1		4	1	3	1	3	13	1	1	2	3	5
Accipiter sp		2		1														
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	1	3	2	24	30		49	11	18	4	5	2	3	9	1	47	20
Red-tailed Hawk	53	34	42	31	49	59		52	17	31	27	48	33	58	39	15	82	25
Harlan's Hawk														2				
Krider's Hawk														1				
Rough-legged Hawk		1		2		1					1							
American Kestrel	28	55	51	22	9	66		33	25	34	38	32	24	15	22	10	31	22
Merlin											1							
Peregrine Falcon	1													1				
Virginia Rail																	3	
Sora																	1	
American Coot	63	150	228	230	351	88		1300	800	41		47		54	193	19	42	
Killdeer	6	73	58	2	9	15		302	47	39	3	9		25	10	28	264	39
Wilson's Snipe								47				3		1			2	
American Woodcock										3								
Bonaparte's Gull	15		7725		1003								1		154	22		
Ring-billed Gull	2896	3	19907	1869	2802	5		1	212	105	3	482	73	347	4657	5216	200	
Herring Gull			131	25	8					1		1		3	41	44		
Thayer's Gull				2														
Lesser Black-backed Gull			1												1	3		
Glaucous Gull				1														
gull sp		1												3				
Rock Pigeon	119	30	49	302	98	67		45	76	197	1	43	9	10	44	36	12	3
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1		18			17		3			14	7	5	3	2	7	34	
Mourning Dove	215	238	276	169	217	368	1	534	95	158	387	192	135	45	102	168	307	59
Barn Owl			1															1
Eastern Screech-Owl	4		1	4	3	1		9	6	2	1		2		2		4	
Great Horned Owl	4	1	1	2	12	1		12	2	1	1		4	1	7	4	10	1
Barred Owl	2	3	1		10	11		14	5	3	2	2	1	2	8	4	11	4
Long-eared Owl			2		2													
Short-eared Owl	3		12			8			1			1	2			2		
Northern Saw-whet Owl															1			
Belted Kingfisher	3	1	2	4	4	5		7	1	6	4	3	3	6	5	4	9	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	9	1		2	196		137	7	69	4	13	3	4	3	3	148	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	42	46	43	18	54	177	13	243	62	98	34	24	47	83	87	56	167	31
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7	4	3	1	12	14		26	5	12	1	1		1	3		24	3
Downy Woodpecker	51	38	28	26	34	94	5	133	32	68	39	34	48	34	59	39	120	17
Hairy Woodpecker	10	6	6	3	12	28	1	39	17	22	7	12	12	7	15	11	47	5
Northern Flicker	17	25	14	7	38	149		179	42	32	17	4	28	14	42	12	113	28
Pileated Woodpecker	19	2	1	1	12	39		55	10	19	6	1	8	18	9		68	18
Eastern Phoebe					2	3		11	1	6	1						8	1
Loggerhead Shrike	2	1	cw			1		1		4	1				1			
White-eyed Vireo			cw															
Blue Jay	70	73	86	22	217	569	17	464	103	132	134	87	69	104	113	185	387	123
American Crow	53	54	87	276	130	1069	13	2730	234	143	69	160	113	126	368	592	405	108
Fish Crow						1											6	
Horned Lark	41		230	1	5	69		367	2	45	83	28	90	27	15	389	56	3
Barn Swallow															1			
Carolina Chickadee	102	64	86	60	68	196		248	119	114	42	75	114		133		274	51

Table 4: Count data for Southern Illinois (south of I-70) *continued*

Species Name	BALK	BIRD	CALK	COLL	CROR	CYCR	EL5A	H5LK	JACK	MRLK	MMWR	MONR	NEWT	PEMR	RDLK	SHEL	UNION	WRBV
Black-capped Chickadee							23				31			127		98		
Tufted Titmouse	49	74	89	29	66	208	25	270	101	125		72	58	139	93	69	241	59
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1		1		1	2		1	1						5		3	
White-breasted Nuthatch	42	42	37	9	24	48	11	90	32	42	17	18	52	59	30	57	129	16
Brown Creeper	4	1	6	2	16	14		71	20	31	2	3	12	2	8		44	2
Carolina Wren	27	28	31	19	70	84	2	221	51	82	29	11	44	16	88	6	227	10
House Wren						1		1		1							1	
Winter Wren		1	1		13	25		49	3	44	1	1			6		28	
Sedge Wren					1								1					
Marsh Wren								1				1	1				3	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	5	34	4	53	140		128	51	66	19	3	12		41	1	79	16
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			4	1	4	9		40	6	12	4		1	3	4		20	5
Eastern Bluebird	44	67	5	13	133	138		383	234	182	40	46	38	63	152	16	227	74
Mountain Bluebird				1														
Hermit Thrush	3		cw		8	7		33	4	6	4	8	3		14		14	1
American Robin	86	13	119	55	18	15	7	26	154	50	5	20	75	122	97	20	15	31
Gray Catbird				2						2								
Northern Mockingbird	5	8	1	9	20	24	2	25	19	28	3	11	3	1	9		10	7
Brown Thrasher	2	4	1	3	2	4		19	3	7	2				3		8	1
European Starling	1673	31309	2817	2359	1880	5321	24	5300	2931	6144	1056	320	18939	1036	4476	1531	1200	1041
American Pipit			2					96		1	2		1			13	8	
Cedar Waxwing	94	9	36		21	52		3	130	23	18	5	36	18	112	2	28	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	23		10	10	96	85		182	21	15	30	5			1		46	13
Pine Warbler					2	1			3						2			
Common Yellowthroat											1						1	
Eastern Towhee	3	4	2	1	23	48		21	7	69		5	4		5		28	8
American Tree Sparrow	51	91	25	16	3	32		50	11	6	9	25	279	120	19	203	183	
Chipping Sparrow			2					5						4	1		17	
Field Sparrow	14	48	16		10	53		126	23	93	4	35	13	1	7		124	6
Vesper Sparrow										2								
Savannah Sparrow	2	2	6	1	6	18		40	4	15	68	1	14	42	10	1	73	3
Le Conte's Sparrow	3		3	1		1		2	1				4	4	6	5	9	
Fox Sparrow	2		6		7	7		38	5	5	3	3	4	4	10		34	1
Song Sparrow	20	57	43	25	64	320		184	85	170	37	29	84	111	85	29	328	12
Lincoln's Sparrow								1				9					2	
Swamp Sparrow	17		11	2	9	349		116	23	95	6	17	41	23	46	8	447	
White-throated Sparrow	83	23	39	37	94	250	17	729	205	346	73	52	102	136	109	43	576	30
White-crowned Sparrow	11	9	19	14	53	101		9	82	90	30	86	14	49	19	5	21	15
Dark-eyed Junco	143	171	306	57	176	271	23	504	712	348	158	98	347	396	327	320	782	211
Lapland Longspur	0	397	620					270				6	73			77	12	
Snow Bunting																1		
Northern Cardinal	163	206	216	130	201	346	23	845	213	379	209	233	209	180	158	224	661	148
Indigo Bunting										1							1	
Dickcissel										2								
Red-winged Blackbird	195	60	40	3628	2096	1265		4000	2889	51160	150	2197	645	3265	211537	5	279	5102
Eastern Meadowlark		27	43		25	68		104	36	110	24	68	154		64	1	124	67
Western Meadowlark																	20	
meadowlark sp.		1																
Rusty Blackbird	9	12	4		27	23		950	43	719		14		2	273		68	
Brewer's Blackbird				11					1			1		5				
Common Grackle	16	5	4	57	9981	2742		60000	1706	58522	40	783	1834	138	150827		500	20
Brown-headed Cowbird	14	86	53	37	168	124		450	557	125	3	5	519	2	75	7	22	20
blackbird sp.	472	3		313123		52000						2000	6000	300				1000000
Purple Finch		11		5		3		2	1	1	2	22	1	1	4		5	9
House Finch	28	7	52	23	10	8	2	19	9	18		41	2	1	5	58	29	4
Red Crossbill																	22	
Common Redpoll				1														
Pine Siskin										1								
American Goldfinch	166	75	86	77	65	112	6	138	133	171	46	206	323	96	121	417	426	66
House Sparrow	79	293	348	92	77	127	8	200	102	553	202	80	429	574	80	799	347	2
Eurasian Tree Sparrow			2	84										150				
Total	90	78	106	83	98	98	20	99	81	94	76	87	89	94	100	78	107	69

Spotted Sandpiper. Clinton Lake Christmas Bird Count, Clinton Lake, DeWitt County. 18 December 2011. Photo by Rob Kanter.

Field Notes:
The 2011-2012 Winter Season

by Kelly J. McKay and Steven D. Bailey

Barrow's Goldeneye drawing by Barbara Williams

Overall, the weather in Illinois during the 2011-2012 winter season was noticeably milder (i.e. longer periods of warmer temperatures and lesser amounts of precipitation), as compared to the previous three winters. Throughout the entire winter temperatures fluctuated widely, but the majority of the season experienced normal to considerably above normal periods. By comparison, only brief episodes of slightly to well below normal temperatures occurred. Statewide temperatures never dipped below 0, and a wind chill of 0 to -5 degrees in mid-January was the coldest of the season. Reduced amounts of precipitation fell across Illinois during fairly frequent minor and major winter storm events this season. In total, 14 noteworthy winter storms traveled across all or a portion of the state during 2011-2012. These storms produced rain, freezing rain, and/or snow depending on the current temperatures.

Throughout December, temperatures across the state ranged from moderately below to considerably above normal, with the majority of the month being warmer than usual. A number of major and minor storms moved through the state during December. Temperatures in January ranged from well below to considerably above normal. However, most of the month was warmer than what typically occurs, with the exception of mid-January which produced the coldest temperatures of the season. January was also a fairly active month in terms of storm events. Another strong wind storm (20-30 mph), moved through Illinois on 1 January but produced very little precipitation. On 12 and 13 January, a powerful winter storm dropped 4-8 inches of snow in the northern portion of the state, 2-4 inches in the central region, and even 1-2 inches of snow through the south. This storm was accompanied by strong winds (20-30 mph), which produced the coldest wind chills of the season (0 to -5 degrees). Temperatures in February ranged from moderately below to considerably above normal. However, as with the two previous months, February was overall much warmer than usual. A strong winter storm dropped 4-8 inches of snow in the northern 1/3, light to moderate rain and freezing rain in the central 1/3, and light rain in the southern 1/3 of the state on 23 February. The winter season ended on 28 February with a very strong storm which produced moderate to heavy rainfall across the entire state, including several strong thunderstorms and tornados throughout the south.

During the winter of 2011-2012, a substantially diverse avian community (193 species) was observed within Illinois. This community included most of the "expected" wintering birds, along with a noteworthy variety of lingering migrants and "semi-hardy" species. Additionally, many birds which are typically present only in the southern region of the state were also recorded this winter. Furthermore, a considerable number of uncommon and accidental species were also documented throughout the state. By the end of the winter season, early spring migration had noticeably commenced within Illinois.

Once again, the avian community observed this winter was substantially diverse with 193 species identified throughout the state. This community was even higher than the high diversity reported during the previous three winters (182, 185, and 189, respectively). Consequently, Illinois again played host to a notable wintering avian community. Overall, the majority of species composing the wintering avifaunal community were observed in greater abundance during the 2011-2012 winter season, as compared to last winter. During the 2011-2012 winter season, many species groups were reported in greater abundance. These groups included: waterfowl (both puddle and diving ducks), "waterbirds," permanent residents, "semi-hardy species," woodpeckers, shrikes, mimic thrushes, sparrows, blackbirds, and finches.

The avian community this winter included many exceptional vagrant and lingering/wintering species. These included Brant, Barrow's Goldeneye, Western Grebe, Prairie Falcon, Little Gull, Mew Gull, Rufous Hummingbird, and Mountain Bluebird), which required review by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC) before they could be accepted. Several additional species were noted requiring IORC review within the state due to rarity or season of occurrence. Among these, some of the more interesting species included: Harlequin Duck, Pacific Loon, Spotted Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper, Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, California Gull, Barn Owl, Fish Crow, White-eyed Vireo, Tree Swallow, No. Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Gray Catbird, Orange-crowned Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, Dickcissel, and Baltimore Oriole. The Whooping Crane was the only exotic/released species observed within Illinois this winter.

Waterfowl to Vultures

Overall, 35 species of waterfowl were reported in Illinois during the 2011-2012 winter season. The majority of waterfowl species, including both "puddle" and "diving ducks," were more plentiful this winter. Goose populations appeared to be more abundant this season at traditional central and southern wintering locations. Additionally, Snow Goose populations were elevated throughout central and southern portions of the state. While Mute Swans were somewhat less numerous this winter, Trumpeter and Tundra Swans were much more abundant. The northward migration began in earnest with geese in mid-February. Overall, both "puddle" and "diving ducks" were reported in greater numbers this year. Although various species were more abundant

this winter at traditional central and southern concentration sites, numbers were still considerably reduced as compared to populations in the fairly recent past.

Once again, four species of upland gamebirds were recorded in Illinois during the 2011-2012 winter season. Northern Bobwhite and Ring-necked Pheasant numbers continued to decline statewide. The Gray Partridge, once again, failed to be encountered this winter, suggesting that this bird has been extirpated from Illinois.

During this winter, observers identified three loon, four grebe, three heron, and both vulture species within the state. The majority of these "waterbird" species occurred in greater abundance, with the exception of the American White Pelican and Black Vulture which were less numerous, and the Great Blue Heron which was reported in numbers similar to last winter.

Diurnal Raptors to Gulls

During the 2011-2012 winter season, 13 species of diurnal raptors were recorded throughout the state. Most raptor species were reported in numbers very similar to last winter, though it is worth noting, that the wintering Bald Eagle population within Illinois has been considerably lower over the past several years. There were no exceptional concentrations of raptors encountered this winter.

Once again, two species of rail were calling in a small marsh in southern Illinois and this family should be looked for in all parts of Illinois in the winter, including far northern Illinois. American Coots and Sandhill Cranes were considerably more abundant and widespread this year statewide. Southbound cranes were noted in large numbers in several Chicagoland and even downstate areas in mid-December but straggling flocks continued into early January. However, large flocks of returning "spring" migrants poured through the Chicagoland area in mid February, with good numbers of cranes present in Illinois throughout the entire winter season!

This winter Illinois hosted eight shorebird species. Of these, Killdeer were substantially more numerous and widespread, while the Wilson's Snipe decreased in overall abundance and distribution. Once again, the Lake Michigan shoreline hosted a Purple Sandpiper. The American Woodcock was almost entirely restricted to returning early spring migrants in February, in numbers similar to the previous winter. Like a number of other species responding to the warming effects of global climate change in our area, birds of this family are lingering longer (especially in southern Illinois) and returning earlier, all within what is considered the "winter" season. Overall, 13 species of gulls were reported this season statewide. Noteworthy concentrations and a diversity of wintering gulls were found at Carlyle Lake.

Pigeons to Kinglets

Monk Parakeets continue to exhibit a declining population trend in Illinois, with few reports from the Chicagoland area.

Eight owl species were recorded in Illinois this winter (all in one day by one group of birders! See article this issue). The entire Midwest region experienced a major invasion, including record numbers here in Illinois of Snowy Owls (See Dave Johnson's article in this issue). Among the rest of the wintering owl community, Great Horned, Long-eared, and Northern Saw-whet Owls were more abundant, while Short-eared Owls were less plentiful. Two Rufous Hummingbirds were once again well-documented this winter, with the help of noted hummingbird bander Vern Kleen.

Of the usual seven woodpecker species found in Illinois, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, was present in similar numbers to the previous winter, while all of the other woodpeckers were reported in greater abundance this year. As has become a regular occurrence in winter, a number of Eastern Phoebes were scattered throughout southern Illinois. There were good numbers of both shrike species this winter, though all but one Loggerhead were located mostly in southeastern Illinois.

Nearly all of the small, common, winter and year-around resident species (i.e. chickadees, Tufted Titmice, nuthatches, Brown Creepers, kinglets and wrens) were more abundant statewide in 2011-2012. Only the Red-breasted Nuthatch was less plentiful as it was a "non-invasion" winter for that species. Nevertheless, there were no exceptional concentrations of any of the above species observed. However, once again there were five species of wren detected in Illinois this winter, including House Wrens detected at four locations.

Thrushes to Buntings

Four species of thrushes and three species of mimids were identified throughout the state. The American Robin was considerably less numerous statewide. Remarkably, one female Mountain Bluebird spent most of the winter and was observed by many birders. There were no exceptional concentrations of American Pipits or Cedar Waxwings this winter, although American Pipits have become a regular component of at least the early winter birding community in Illinois just within the last decade or so.

An amazing seven species of warblers were reported in Illinois this winter including nine Orange-crowneds at seven locations (!), with Yellow-rumped Warblers more abundant and widely distributed. Three of the remaining species were all noteworthy in terms of their winter occurrence in Illinois, as Common Yellowthroat and Pine Warbler are regular winter residents in small numbers, at least in far southern Illinois. See the article this issue on the very cooperative Black-throated Blue Warbler which spent many days in early winter in Chicago feeding at Yellow-bellied Sapsucker sap wells.

A Scarlet Tanager was well documented with photos, and was noted coming to a feeder for black oil sunflower seeds, for Illinois's first winter record of this species. Illinois produced 16 species of sparrows during the 2011-2012 winter season. While fewer numbers of American Tree, Chipping, and Savannah Sparrows were reported, all other sparrows were present in greater numbers. Although the number of Chipping Sparrows decreased this year, the species appears to be establishing itself as a regular wintering bird within the state. LeConte's Sparrows are also now a regular wintering species, at least locally, in many southern Illinois and some central Illinois fields, especially in fields with a large amount of foxtail (Setaria sp.) grasses. Lapland Longspur and Northern Cardinal numbers increased this season, while Snow Buntings and Dark-eyed Juncos declined.

Blackbirds to Weaver Finches

Of the eight species of blackbirds observed in Illinois in winter 2011-2012, the majority of the species were more abundant this winter The exception was the Eastern Meadowlark and Brewer's Blackbird which were less numerous. Once again, icterid numbers at traditional southern wintering locations were reported in lower abundance although several notable

concentrations were still encountered there. Two Baltimore Orioles were well-documented with photos.

A total of eight finch species were observed in Illinois this winter. The winter 2011-2012 season produced a pretty significant invasion of both crossbills, Pine Siskin and Common Redpolls mainly in northern Illinois but at least small numbers of all four species were found south into central Illinois as well. A single Evening Grosbeak was also located. Eurasian Tree Sparrows were found in good numbers this winter, including one bird which spent much of February in a Cook County yard for many to view.

The Changing Illinois winter bird community

The shorter and warmer Illinois winters brought about by global climate change are quickly bringing about marked changes to the Illinois winter bird community and its dynamics. It has already been shown that migrants travelling over short or medium distances arrive earlier and stay longer in their breeding areas. And for the most part, these are the species for which the most noticeable changes in the Illinois wintering bird community are occurring. For instance, as recently as the winters of 1989-1991, Canada Goose numbers in the heavily hunted southern Illinois quota zone were counted by aerial censuses and their numbers ranged between 565,000 and 871,000, with 3 or 4 southern Illinois "goose" refuges annually attracting 150-250, 000 or more Canada Geese at each refuge every winter. During those years and earlier, a flock of 10-25 Snow Geese was something to get excited about anywhere in Illinois, and even a single Greater White-fronted Goose or Ross's Goose was unheard of, even in the big southern Illinois goose flocks, and always needed to be documented. Flash-forward to the past several years on those same southern Illinois "goose" refuges. Highest tallies for Canada Geese now come from central and northern Illinois, and those counts only range between 1,500-5,000, with counts on two of the three big southern Illinois goose refuges having only tallied between 500-1,200 birds on two of the refuges the last few years. Contrast that with Snow Goose and Greater White-fronted Goose numbers, which now far outnumber the Canada Goose flocks, with several areas harboring 50,000-100,000 Snow Geese (as far north as Springfield and Lake Chautauqua), and as many as 5-10,000 Greater White-fronted Geese in several areas. Counts of 10-25 Ross's Geese are not uncommon for those willing to sort through the huge Snow Goose flocks. Most of the large Canada Goose numbers are now wintering northward at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and other areas in Wisconsin and points farther north.

On the flip-side, the 2011-2012 winter season saw the largest numbers of wintering Tundra and Trumpeter Swans likely yet reported for an Illinois winter…a good sign for the Midwest's rebounding, re-introduced Trumpeter Swan population. Migrating south(east) bound Tundra Swans in mid-December and even into January, almost met the returning northbound flocks of early to mid-February, and like today's Illinois Sandhill Crane migrants, made it hard to tell if the birds were coming or going… or maybe some were actually even wintering. Three species of wintering swans have become the norm at the Channahon Widewaters area in Will County. Speaking of those cranes, good numbers of that species were detected in each month of the winter season, with birds flying southbound in December and January as well as northbound in January and February. In fact, some Sandhill Cranes fitted with radio-transmitters for a study being conducted in northeastern Illinois have shown that several of the birds were flying back and forth between northeast Illinois and the main eastern staging area for cranes in northwestern Indiana, 4 or 5 times in fall/winter "migration"! Large numbers of cranes (including Whooping Cranes!) are now wintering in northwest Indiana, instead of continuing on to their more normal wintering areas in Florida and the Gulf Coast states.

Concerning raptors, Golden Eagles appear to be forming a regular wintering area in central/southern Wisconsin and northwestern Illinois, to the extent that the National Fish & Wildlife Service is beginning to conduct a winter aerial survey of their numbers. Historically most Illinois winter Golden Eagle records usually came from the same refuges in far southern Illinois that attracted the large numbers of geese on which they feed. Although they are still often found there, in recent years up to at least a half dozen or more of these eagles are getting detected in other areas of Illinois, especially in northwest Illinois during the winter. Winter records of Merlin have increased fairly dramatically within the last 20-25 years or so as well. The winter 1991-1992 Merlin account in the Illinois birding journal *Illinois Birds & Birding* read "first confirmed overwintering Merlins in state history" (4 records, w/3 in northern IL). All winter records prior to this were asked to be "thoroughly documented". Bohlen (1989) referred to both Golden Eagle and Merlin as "rare winter residents", with rare defined as occurring only "once or twice a year, and some years not at all". Most of the earlier Illinois bird journals for the 1980's and early 1990's listed 2-5 Merlin sightings per winter, occasionally fewer. The *Meadowlark: A Journal of Illinois Birds*, lists between 10-18 Merlin sightings most winters for about the last ten years…quite a jump in numbers for such a short time period since they were formerly considered rare. Interestingly, this same phenomena has been detected in other surrounding Midwestern states, as well as the fact that a large number of wintering Merlins in each state are detected at cemeteries, both in Illinois and in other Midwestern states. This is not due to the Merlin's sudden preference for cemetery head stones but likely due to the presence of the large, old conifers found in many cemeteries, which they can roost in…trees which they are known to use as roosting sites (Sodhi et al. 1993). Their winter range has also generally been spreading northward the past thirty years, and their breeding range southward (Sodhi et al. 1993).

Other species which are showing changes in their wintering status within Illinois (all either beginning to overwinter, linger into winter longer, occur in winter more than formerly or increasing in population or more northerly distribution during winter) in the last few decades include Red-throated Loon, American White Pelican, Turkey Vulture, various shorebirds (especially American Woodcock), Forster's Tern, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Northern Shrike, Barn, Tree and No. Rough-winged Swallows, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped and Pine Warblers, Chipping, Savannah and LeConte's Sparrows, and all blackbird species. Bohlen (1989) states for Red-throated Loon, "no recent winter records and few old ones", though small numbers of these birds have either wintered or lingered into early/mid-December since at least the 2006/2007 winter season along the Lake Michigan shoreline, as well as at a few large, downstate reservoirs. All of the above species present their own interesting stories, but somewhere within that story, the warming Illinois winter temperatures play a role. These relatively recent trends can easily be noted, either

by those that have been birding long and attentively enough or by those willing to scour through Illinois's ornithological history in the various Illinois ornithological journals or state and regional monographs concerned with Illinois's birds. Other interesting changes that are possibly on the horizon include: are Illinois's wintering numbers of Common Goldeneyes and Common Mergansers becoming fewer as warming temperatures allow many to winter farther north? And speaking of more northerly range changes, how much farther north and east will the Eurasian Tree Sparrow spread ...in or beyond Illinois's borders? Bohlen (1989) gives Sangamon and Christian Counties as this species easternmost range in the state, and lists Hampton as a vagrant location where today many dozens can regularly be tallied in a visit. The former northern extent was the Peoria area in the late 1980's but birds of this species can now regularly be found in numbers quite a distance north into Whiteside, Ogle, Stark, Putnam, Woodford and McLean Counties. This species has dramatically declined if anything in its former stronghold in the Greater St. Louis area, and has not expanded its range any farther south. Will Ring-necked Pheasants survive to occur in Illinois if a few more severe winter storms occur or grassland habitat loss continues? Will Turkey Vulture winter roosts spread from their mostly southern Illinois locations and begin appearing in northern Illinois as winter snows decline or change mainly to rain? Will birds as diverse as American Woodcock and Chipping Sparrow become regular Illinois winter residents throughout Illinois in the next decade? Stay tuned...

Acknowledgements

The foundation of this summary was the detailed information regarding wintering avian populations as submitted directly to the compiler by field observers throughout the state. Maximum counts are provided, where available, from each of the three regions of Illinois (north, central, and south) as described by Bohlen (1978). Additional data reflecting the progress of the season are noted, when available, for species and areas of special interest. The species accounts which follow, utilize the taxonomy and nomenclature of the 52nd Supplement from the 7th Edition of the A.O.U. Check-list (American Ornithologists' Union 2011) and the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (1999; 2007).

We thank Sheryl DeVore for her assistance in the preparation of this article. We especially want to gratefully acknowledge and thank all the contributors who made this report possible. These observers are credited for each record, and cited observers are listed here by initials/citation forms: Andrew Aldrich, Amar A. Ayyash, Alan B. Anderson, Charlene K. Anchor, Cornelius P. Alwood, Danny Akers, Edward Anderson, Frank Angileri, Heather Arras, Jack L. Armstrong, Les Allen, Mike Andrews, Mary J. Adams, Todd Anderson, Brian L. Blevins, Corey Blevins, David Benson, Elizabeth de la Baume (EDB); Frank K. Bennett, H. David Bohlen, Jeff Bilsky, Joan C. Bruchman, Joe Bierman (JBn), Jackie Bowman (JBo), John M. Bates, Linda Boardsen, Larry G. Balch, Maury H. Brucker, Marc J. Bolinger (MBr), Michael J. Baum, Margaret L. Baker, Marilyn R. Bell, Nick Barber, Peter Bullock, Ron Bradley, Ron Blazek (RBk), Ray Boehmer (RBr), Richard Biss (RBs); Richard G. Bjorklund, Robert R. Bryant, Susan Benjamin, Samuel B. Burckhardt, Steven D. Bailey, Sigurd N. Bjorklund, Tim Barksdale (TBe), Todd E. Bugg, Vonna Bley, William A. Bertrand, Angelo P. Capparella, Bob Carper, Chris Carr, Connie Carroll-Cunningham (CCC), Christopher L. Cudworth, Elizabeth Christison, Elizabeth J. Chato, John Cebula, Matthew M. Cvetas, Paul R. Clyne, Rena Cohen, Scott A. Cohrs, Bob Drennan, Carl DauBach, Colin Dobson (CDn), Donnie R. Dann, Michelle Devlin, Nandu Dubey, Pen DauBach, Par A. Durkin, Richard Day, Richard Davis (RDs), Sherry Dearborn, Tim J. Dever, Alfred G. Dierkes, Gloria Dimoplon, Jeff Dundek (JDk), Jon J. Duerr, Joshua I. Engel, Mary Jane Easterday (MJE), Robert Erickson, Russ Engelke (REe), Thad R. Edmonds, Anthony D. Friend, Carolyn S. Fields, Don Fish (DFh), Jim Frazier, Kate Frazier, Kurt Frieders (KFs), Karen D. Fisher, Michael Ferguson, Michal Furmanek (MFk), Matt E. Fraker, Pete Fenner, Ron Flemal, Robert E. Fisher, Susan Friscia, Sean Fitzgerald (SFd), Sean Fitzpatrick (SFk); Aaron Gyllenhaal, Brad Grover (BGr), Ethan Gyllenhaal, Eric D. Gyllenhaal, Evan Glynn (EGn), Glenn Giacinto, Joel R. Greenberg, Karen Waterman-George, Larry Granat, Nathan Goldberg, Urs W. Geiser, W. Sullivan Gibson, Bob Hammel (BHl), Cary D. Hillegonds, C. Leroy Harrison, Diane Hansen, Dustin Holschuh (DHh), Don Hartzler (DHr), Frank R. Holmes, Given Harper (GHr), John Heneghan, Jed B. Hertz, Kanae Hirabayashi, Larry L. Hood, Mark Hurley, Michael J. Hogg, Roger Hotham, Robert D. Hughes, Stephen B. Hager, Steve J. Huggins, Ted Hartzler (THr), Trevor Hinckley (THy), Mike Ingram, Stacy Iwanicki, David B. Johnson, Rhetta Jack, Steve Juhlin, Yeanette Johnson, Dan M. Kassebaum, John Koch, Katy Krigbaum, Ken Kampenga (KKa), Kevin Kaltenbach (KKh), Rob Kanter, Tim L. Kuesel, Vernon M. Kleen, Brent Langley, Brendon Lake (BLe), Caitlin Lill, Don Lowe, Daniel A. Leifheit, Eric Lundquist, Gregory S. Lambeth, John Longhenry, Julie Long (JLg), Jim Levenson (JLn), Jeff M. Levengood, John P. Leonard, Joseph W. Lill, Karen Land (KLd); Kara L. Knuffman, Karen M. Lund, Rich Laramore, Vernon LaVia, Vicki Lang (VLg), Walter Lutz, Anita L. Morgan, Ben Murphy (BMy), Brendan J. McCooey, Cathleen D. Monson, Donald G. Maum, Fran R. Morel, Jeanie Morse, James McGhee (JMe), John & Cindy McKee (J&CM), Jason L. Monson, Keith A. McMullen, Kelly J. McKay, Karen K. Mansfield, Lindsay C. Maess, Matt McKim-Louder, Melody Mindelli, Michael A. Madsen, Marion Miller (MMr), Nick Minor, Owen H. McHugh, Peter A. Moxon, Rich Miller, Robert A. Morgan, Tim Murphy, Travis A. Mahan, Walter J. Marcisz, Greg Neise, Joan I. Norek, Randy Nyboer, Dick Paulson, Janine Polk, Judy Pollock (JPk), John Picken (JPn), Linda Padera, Linda Popp, Marc Perkowitz, Patrick Palmer, Paul Quintas, Ari Rice, Adam M. Reyburn, Bronson Ratcliff, Jessica Runner, Kevin B. Richmond, Mary Robbins, Mary Kay Rubey, Michael L.P. Retter, Pat Reyburn, Phil J. Reyburn, Rhonda S. Rothrock, Sarah Roper, Tom Rollins, Adam Sell, Alan F. Stokie, Andrew P. Sigler, Ari Shavit (ASh), Anne Straight (ASt), Bob Schifo, Beau J. Schaefer, Brian Smith (BSh), Bill Saylor (BSr), Beth Simkins (BSs), Bud Schultz (BSz), Donald Schmidt, Dave Spleha (DSa), Dawn Smith (DSh), Douglas F. Stotz, Darrell J. Shambaugh, Eric E. Secker, Jeff Sundberg, Jeff A. Smith, Joseph L. Suchecki, James O. Smith, Jeffrey R. Sanders, Janelle Swanberg (JSg), Jon Sleger (JSr), Jim S. Solum, Mark S. Seiffert, Mike Seiffert, Richard A. Sayles, Robert E. Shelby, Sandra Spence, Stephen G. Spitzer, Vicky Sroczynski, Wesley S. Serafin, Alice Topping, Craig A. Taylor, Craig B. Thayer, David L. Thomas, Ernie Topping, Marla Turek, Michael L. Trahan, Nancy J. Tikalsky, Torri Thompson, Tim Vanseghi, Bernie Wiltshire, Barbara C. Williams, Christine L. Williamson, Dan Wenny, Debbie Wisser (DWr), Dan T. Williams, Edward Warden (EWn), Eric W. Walters, Geoffrey A. Williamson, Jason D. Weckstein, Jeff W. Walk, Linda Wesp, Matthew J. Winks, Michael P. Ward, Pat Ward, Patrick Webb (PWb), Sue Wagoner, Tom Williams, Tony Ward (TWd), Robert Zinanni, Sue Zelek, Walter M. Zuurdeeg.

Literature Cited

American Ornithologists' Union. 2011. Fifty-second supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union check-list of North American birds. Auk 128(3):600-613.

Bohlen, H.D. 1978. An annotated check-list of the birds of Illinois. Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois. 156 pp.

_____. 1989. The Birds of Illinois. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, IN. 221 pp.

Illinois Ornithological Records Committee. 1999. Checklist of Illinois state birds. Illinois Ornithological Society, Special Publication Number 1, Lake Forest, Illinois. 20pp.

Illinois Ornithological Records Committee. 2007. Species review list. Accessed online at www.illinoisbirds.org/iorc.html.

Sodhi, N.S., L.W. Oliphant, P.C. James, and I.G. Warkentin. 1993. Merlin (Falco columbarius). *In* The Birds of North America, No. 44 (A. Poole and F. Gill, Eds.). Philadelphia: The Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C.: The American Ornithologists' Union.

As a printing aid the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

Observation Locations:

AmnBot	= American Bottoms (Monroe Co)
AndalSl	= Andalusia Slough Recreation Area (Rock Island Co)
Ark	=Arklands Reclamation Area / Pyramid State Park (Perry & Randolph Cos)
BaldwinL	= Baldwin Lake (Randolph and St. Clair Cos)
BeallWds	= Beall Woods State Park (Wabash Co)
CarlL	= Carlyle Lake (Clinton and Fayette Cos)
CarlL-B	= Carlyle Lake (Bond Co)
CarlL-C	= Carlyle Lake (Clinton Co)
CarlL-F	= Carlyle Lake (Fayette Co)
CBG	= Chicago Botanic Garden (Cook Co)
Champaign	= Champaign (Champaign Co)
Chann	= Channahon (Will Co)
Chau	= Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge (Mason Co)
Chi	= Chicago and vicinity (Cook Co)
ClearL	= Clear Lake (Mason Co)
ClintonL	= Clinton Lake State Recreation Area (DeWitt Co)
COLSP	= Chain O' Lakes State Park (Lake Co)
CONWR	= Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (Williamson Co)
EForkL	= East Fork Lake, Olney (Richland Co)
Emiquon	= Emiquon Preserve (Fulton Co)
ESTL	= East St. Louis (St. Clair Co)
Fermi	= Fermilab (DuPage Co)
GLPSNA	= Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area (Grundy Co)
GreeneVal	= Greene Valley Forest Preserve (DuPage Co)
GreenR	= Green River State Wildlife Area (Lee Co)
HennepinL	= Hennepin-Hopper Lake Restoration Area (Putnam Co)
HL	= Horseshoe Lake State Park (Madison Co)
HLCA	= Horseshoe Lake Conservation Area (Alexander Co)
IBSP	= Illinois Beach State Park (Lake Co)
JP	= Jackson Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
Kankakee	= Kankakee (Kankakee Co)
KankakeePks	= LeVasseur & Perry Farm Parks (Kankakee Co)
KArb	= Klehm Arboretum (Winnebago Co)
KCP	= Kennekuk County Park (Vermilion Co)
KinkL	= Kinkaid Lake (Jackson Co)
KLMSNA	= Kidd Lake Marsh State Natural Area (Monroe Co)
KSRA	= Kickapoo State Recreation Area (Vermilion Co)
LCal	= Lake Calumet and vicinity (Cook Co)
LMurph	= Lake Murphysboro State Park (Jackson Co)
LostMound	= Lost Mound National Wildlife Refuge (Jo Daviess Co)
LowdMil	= Lowden-Miller State Forest (Ogle Co)
LRen	= Lake Renwick (Will Co)
LShel-M	= Lake Shelbyville (Moultrie Co)
LShel-S	= Lake Shelbyville (Shelby Co)
LSpfld	= Lake Springfield (Sangamon Co)
LVerm	= Lake Vermilion (Vermilion Co)
LTFP	= Loud Thunder Forest Preserve and vicinity (Rock Island Co)
MArb	= Morton Arboretum (DuPage Co)
MeadbrkPk	= Meadowbrook Park (Champaign Co)
MermetL	= Mermet Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area (Massac Co)
MidSav	= Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve (Lake Co)
Merwin	= Merwin Nature Preserve (McLean Co)
MissR	= Mississippi River (various Cos)
MRB	= Mississippi River Blufflands (Monroe Co)
Nachusa	= Nachusa Grasslands (Lee Co)
NWU	= Northwestern University Lakefill, Evanston (Cook Co)
OakBot	= Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co)
PaulDouglas	= Paul Douglas FP (Cook Co)
PLNWR	= Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge – Keithsburg Division (Mercer Co)
PRKWA	= Peabody River King State Fish & Wildlife Area (St. Clair Co)
PrRdg-J	= Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (Jasper Co)
PrRdg-M	= Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (Marion Co)
QC	= Quad Cities and vicinity (Rock Island Co)
Rckfd	= Rockford and vicinity (Winnebago Co)
RendL	= Rend Lake and vicinity (Franklin and Jefferson Cos)
RendL-F	= Rend Lake and vicinity (Franklin Co)
RendL-J	= Rend Lake and vicinity (Jefferson Co)
RockCut	= Rock Cut State Park (Winnebago Co)
RollinsSav	= Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve (Lake Co)
Sang	= Sangamon Co
SantaFe	= Santa Fe Bottoms (Clinton Co)
ShabL	= Shabbona Lake State Recreation Area (DeKalb Co)
SouthFarms	= U of I South Farms (Champaign Co)
Spfld	= Springfield and vicinity (Sangamon Co)
SRSF	= Sand Ridge State Forest (Mason Co)
StarvedRock	= Starved Rock State Park and vicinity (LaSalle Co)
UCCA	= Union County Conservation Area (Union Co)
Urbana	= Urbana (Champaign Co)
WaterGlen	= Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve (DuPage Co)
Wauk	= Waukegan Beach and vicinity (Lake Co)
WhalonL	= Whalon Lake Forest Preserve (Will Co)
WinthropH	= Winthrop Harbor and North Point Marina (Lake Co)

Field Note Abbreviations:

*	= documented record	Crk	= Creek	plum	= plumage
**	= specimen record	FP	= Forest Preserve	pr	= Pair
<	= Late fall departure	H	= Harbor	Pr	= Preserve
>	= Early spring arrival	I	= Island	Pra	= Prairie
♀	= Female	IL	= Illinois	R	= River
♂	= Male	imm	= Immature	SF	= State Forest
1st	= First winter plumage	L	= Lake	Sl	= Slough
2nd	= Second winter plumage	L&D	= Lock & Dam	SNA	= State Natural Area
3rd	= Third winter plumage	M	= Marsh	SP	= State Park
ad	= Adult	MC	= Maximum count	SRA	= State Recreation Area
Apt	= Apt	m.ob.	= Many observers	SF&WA	= State Fish & Wildlife Area
Bldg	= Building	NWR	= National Wildlife Refuge	Univ	= University
CA	= Conservation Area	ph	= Photograph	unk	= Unknown age/sex
Cem	= Cemetery	Pk(s)	= Park(s)	vid	= video
Co(s)	= County(ies)				

When information on counts greater than one individual, sexes, and/or ages of observed birds is available, it is included in parentheses at the head of the observation account. This information is followed by the location of the observation, date(s) of observation, and the observer(s) who made the report. A location consisting of only a county(ies) is given in *italics*. Noteworthy dates of occurrence, remarkably high counts, and/or locations for the state as a whole, or for particular regions of the state, are **underlined and boldfaced**.

Species of extremely unusual occurrence in Illinois during the winter, which require IORC documentation, are underlined. Headings for species requiring review by the IORC appear in **CAPITALIZED, UNDERLINED, AND BOLDFACED** fonts.

Winter 2011-2012 Field Notes

Greater White-fronted Goose

MC: **10,000**, EForkL, 29 Jan (CLH); **7,000**, Ark, 27 Dec (KJM); **4,310**, HLCA, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); **3,176**, Chau, 16 Feb (RGB, SNB); **1,600**, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 19 Feb (JIN, UWG, JAS et al.); 867, *McDonough*, 17 Dec (LLH); 750, MissR (Rock Island Co), 26 Dec (CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 300, GLPSNA, 28 Feb (AFS, APS). **Others**: CarlL-C (4,000), 25 Feb (DMK); UCCA (2,355 & 2,345; different birds), 29 Dec (KJM & SDB, PAM); Sang (850 & 590 & 310), 28 Jan & 18 Dec & 3 Feb resp (HDB); CONWR (1,000), 30 Jan (KAM); RendL (625), 17 Dec (KAM); ClintonL (550), 19 Feb (GSL); HennepinL (480), 30 Dec-2 Jan (DFS, BC); KLMSNA (313), 29 Jan (CD, PD); HL (267), 26 Feb (FRH); BraidwoodL (Will Co) (223), 31 Jan (JBH); StarvedRock (200), 18 Feb (CDH); Bloomington (McLean Co) (200), 24 Jan (MJW); Danville (Vermilion Co) (155 migrating north), 17 Feb (JR); *Winnebago* (150+ @ 2 locations), 19 Feb (AFS); PRKWA (140), 21 Jan (TJD); Danville (Vermilion Co) (125 flying south), 29 Dec (CC & JR); OakBot (100), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); Fairmount (Vermilion Co) (83), 28 Dec (JR, BS); Kankakee (Whispering Willows Pk) (68), 22 Feb (JBH); Karnak (Pulaski Co) (50), 5 Feb (FKB); Aroma Park (Kankakee Co) (34), 4 Jan (JBH); JP (33 migrating), 29 Feb (PRC); Mundelein (Lake Co) (25), 2 Feb (TA); MissR (Carroll Co) (20), 21 Dec (REe); HomerL FP (Champaign Co) (16), 18 Jan (JOS); Rckfd (15), 5 Jan (DTW, BCW); River Bend FP (Champaign Co ("several" & 12), 18 Jan & 17 Feb (MAM & EJC resp); Winfield Twp ("Pella Ponds", DuPage Co) (12), 31 Jan (PAM, AFS); ShabbonaL SP (DeKalb Co) (19 & 11), 9 Feb & 14 Jan (AFS & DJS resp); MissR (Adams Co) (10), 7 Feb (AGD); Crystal Lake (Lippold Pk) (McHenry Co) (8), 5 Feb (AFS, APS); WhalonL (Will Co) (6), 1 Feb (JAS); Van Patten Wds FP (Lake Co) (2), 5 Feb (JSS); Kirkland (DeKalb Co), 11 Dec (KML:ph); LShel-S, 2 Jan (DMK).

Snow Goose

MC: **500,000**, CarlL-C, 8,29 Jan (DMK); **129,216** (67,196 "white phase", 62,020 "blue phase"), Chau, 16 Feb (RGB, SNB); **44,645** (36,525 "white phase", 8,120 "blue phase"), HLCA, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); **40,000**, *Wayne & Richland*, 5 Feb (CLH); **30,000**, Ark, 27 Dec (KJM); **12,500** & **10, 500** & 400, Sang, 28 Jan & 2 Feb & 18 Dec resp (HDB); **10,000**, MissR (Adams Co), 6 Feb (PJR, AGD); 144, MissR (Rock Island Co), 26 Dec (KJM, CAT, m.ob.). **Others**: UCCA (23,500), 29 Dec (KJM); RendL-F (20,000), 17 Dec (DMK); *Jefferson* (15,000), 30 Jan (KAM); Karnak (Pulaski Co) (5,000), 5 Feb (FKB); Emiquon (4,500), 7 Jan (KAM); KLMSNA (3,247), 6 Feb (CD, PD); OakBot (1,703), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); Gridley Sewage Plant (Woodford Co) (500), 15 Feb (BMy); HL (320), 26 Feb (FRH); Braceville Twp (Grundy Co) (125), 26 Feb (REF, UWG); El Paso Sewage Lagoons (Woodford Co) (46), 31 Jan (BMy); ClintonL (30), 19 Feb (GSL); River Bend FP (Champaign Co) (30), 17 Feb (EJC); Bloomington (McLean Co) (4; white morph), 17-24 Dec (BW et al.); ArlingtonL (Arlington Heights, Cook Co) (2), 6 Jan (JCB); Sycamore (DeKalb Co), 15 Dec (MA).

Ross's Goose

MC: 22, UCCA, 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); 15, HLCA, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 11, CarlL-F, 12 Feb (KAM); 6, Braceville Twp (Grundy Co), 26 Feb (REF, UWG); 6, Sang, 23 Feb (HDB); 2, Zion (Lake Co), 31 Jan> (EWW). **Others**: *Pulaski* (4 & 3), 28 Dec & 5 Feb (JAS, JIN & FKB resp); *Wayne & Richland* (4), 3 Jan (CLH); *Wabash & Edwards* (4), 5 Jan (CLH); HL (4), 26 Feb (FRH); RendL (3), 17 Dec (KAM); *Effingham & Clay* (2), 16 Jan (CLH); Ark (2), 27 Dec (KJM); CONWR (2), 30 Jan (KAM); Bonus Twp (Boone Co), 28 Dec (MAM, APS); St. Mary'sL (Lake Co), 11 Feb (SDB et al.); Nelson Twp (Lee Co), 26 Feb (DHh); Winfield Twp (DuPage Co), 31 Dec (AA:ph); Kankakee (Whispering Willows Pk), 3 Feb (JBH:ph); *e. Kankakee*, 21 Feb (JBH); El Paso Sewage Lagoons (Woodford Co), 31 Jan (BMy); Gridley Sewage Plant (McLean Co), 15 Feb (BMy); ClintonL, 19 Feb (GSL); River Bend FP (Champaign Co), 18-20 Jan (MAM, EJC); HomerL FP (Champaign Co), 16 Jan (JOS); Coles Co. Apt (Coles Co), 5 Feb (RB); HomerL FP (Champaign Co), 16 Jan (JOS); OakBot, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ).

Cackling Goose

MC: 300, Bloomington (McLean Co) (200), 24 Jan (MJW); 200, Farmer City (borrow pits, DeWitt Co), 19 Feb (GSL); 150, LRen, 24 Dec (JAS); 100, Spfld (mall pond), 29 Jan (HDB); 80, CarlL-C, 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); 70, Chau, 23 Dec (RGB, SNB); 67, Bushnell (McDonough Co), 14 Jan (LLH); 54, QC, 18 Dec (*KJM, *BLB, *TM, BL, m.ob.). **Others**: PeacockM (Will Co) (50), 1 Jan (DFS); Bloomington (McLean Co) (24), 17 Dec (BW); Kirkland (DeKalb Co) (20), 1-11 Dec (KML); MissR (Whiteside Co) (20), 19 Feb (JIN, UWG, JAS); Winfield Twp ("Pella Ponds", DuPage Co) (20), 3 Feb (AA); Ark (20), 27 Dec (KJM); CONWR (20), 30 Jan (KAM); Lost Nation (Ogle Co) (17), 18 Dec (EWW); Independence Grove FP (Lake Co) (15), 4 Dec (RDH); Nelson Twp (Lee Co) (15), 26 Feb (DHh); AmnBot (11), 6 Feb (CD, PD); St. Mary's Seminary (Mundelein, Lake Co) (10), 1 Jan (AFS); MissR (Mercer Co) (10), 15 Jan (KJM); ShabbonaL (DeKalb Co) (8), 9 Feb (AFS); AndalSl (8), 26 Dec (*KJM, CAT); Ottawa (LaSalle Co) (7), 22 Jan (NM et al.); EForkL (7), 13 Feb (CLH); HLCA (6), 28 Dec (KJM); Van Patten Wds FP (Lake Co) (4), 5 Feb (JSS); *Kane* (4), 7 Jan (KAM); ArlingtonL (Arlington Heights, Cook Co) (4), 6 Jan (MP); *Henry* (3), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); River Bend FP (Champaign Co) ("several"), 18-20 (MAM, EJC); BraidwoodL (Will Co) (2), 8 Jan (JBH); BeallWds (2), 18 Dec (CLH); Chi, 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); HL, 26 Feb> (FRH); UCCA, 29 Dec (KJM).

Canada Goose

MC: 16,476, ClintonL, 27 Jan (MEF); 6,000, Winfield Twp ("Pella Ponds", DuPage Co), 31 Jan (PAM, AFS); 3,748, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.); 1,812, *Whiteside & Lee*, 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 1,600, Lake Villa (Lake Co) (migrating south), 13 Jan (RBs); 1,459, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); 600, CarlL-C, 19 Feb (DMK); 400, *Jersey & Madison*, 9 Dec (KAM). **Others**: HennepinL (1,700), 7 Jan (BC); MissR (Whiteside & Rock Island Cos) (1,500), 13 Jan (KJM); *LaSalle* (1,300), 25 Jan (BC); PeacockM (Will Co) (1,200), 1 Jan (DFS); *Lake* (1,166), 11 Dec (JRS); Mundelein (Lake Co) (1,100 migrating west-northwest), 17 Jan (TA); Chau (1,064), 3 Feb (RGB, SNB); Glacial Pk (McHenry Co) (1,000), 29 Dec (RAM, ALM); ShabbonaL (DeKalb Co) (1,000), 9 Feb (AFS); MissR (Rock Island Co) (851), 26 Dec (KJM, CAT, m.ob.); St. Mary's Seminary (Mundelein, Lake Co) (800), 1 Jan (AFS); LostMound (769), 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); Chi (704), 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); *Carroll & Whiteside* (660), 20 Dec (EA, RN, m.ob.); Wilmington Dam (Will Co) (650), 14 Jan (JBH); Warren Twp (Lake Co) (500), 1 Jan (ND); Bloomington (McLean Co) (500), 24 Jan (MJW); Independence Grove FP (Lake Co) (460), 24 Dec (JRS, RC); *Henry* (450), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); *De Kalb* (400), 7 Jan (KAM); RollinsSav (390), 1 Jan (ND); Ark (300), 27 Dec (KJM); LShel-S (300), 2 Jan (DMK); MArb (250), 7 Jan (KAM); *Grundy* (250), 6 Feb (KAM); WinthropH (240), 27 Jan (EWW); L Le-Aqua-Na SP (Stephenson Co) (200), 21 Jan (EWW); *se Stephenson & sw Winnebago* (171), 31 Jan (SDB); UCCA (157), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Woodford* (152), 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); Wilmington Dam (Will Co), 10 Dec (JBH); *Jackson* (150), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); HLCA (88), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM).

Tundra Swans.
Evergreen Lake.
Woodford County.
28 January 2012.
Photo by Matthew Winks.

BRANT

CarlL-C **6**, 15 Jan (DMK).

Mute Swan

MC: 63, LCal, 24 Jan (WJM); 45, Chann, 11 Dec-7 Jan (JAS, KAM); 14, Emiquon, 9 Feb (LLH); 9, Danville (Vermilion Co), 1 Jan (SDB et al.). **Others**: LillyL (McHenry Co) (35), 4 Dec (TA); DiamondL (Mundelein, Lake Co) (8), 13 Dec (BJS); CBG (7), 10 Feb (AFS); Moraine Hills SP (McHenry Co) (5), 29 Dec (RAM, ALM); RollinsSav (5), 1 Jan (ND); Rckfd (3), 17 Dec (DTW); *Jasper* (3), 23 Dec (fide JWW); CarlL-C (3), 14 Jan (DMK); MissR (Mercer Co) (2 ad), 15 Jan (KJM); Ark (2), 27 Dec (JAS, JIN); Wilmington Dam (Will Co), 10 Dec (JBH).

Trumpeter Swan

MC: 137, *Madison & Bond*, 15 Dec (CLH); 74, SandL (Havana, Mason Co), 31 Dec (DB); 63, *Union*, 29 Dec (VMK et al.); 60, MissR (Adams Co), 16 Jan (PJR); 48, SantaFe, 4&12 Feb (DMK); 46, Emiquon, 1 Jan (LLH); 19, MissR (Carroll & Whiteside Cos), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); 15, QC, 1 Feb (KJM). **Others**: *Union* (37), 29 Dec (KJM, JIN, JAS); *Peoria* (29), 24 Jan (TRE); LSpfld (18; 16 ad, 2 imm), 31 Dec (HDB); Little SwanL (Warren Co) (15), 17 Feb (LLH); *McDonough* (14), 17 Dec (LLH); WightmanL (Marshall Co) (13), 9-19 Feb (MHB et al.); LCal (12; 9 ad, 3 imm) ("3 yellow neck-collared – 71E,72E,73E"), 11-12 Feb (WJM); LCharleston (Coles Co) (12), 20 Jan (RB); GLPSNA (10), 22 Feb (REF et al.); CarlL (10; "7 neck-collared"), 27 Dec (KAM); HLCA (9), 28 Dec (KJM); Chann (7), 7 Jan (KAM); CalhounL (Knox Co) (7), 22 Feb (MJB); MermetL (7; 2 neck-collared), 27 Jan (FKB); AndalSl (6), 26 Dec (KJM, CAT); Chau (5), 3 Feb (RGB, SNB); Oakwood (Vermilion Co) (6; 4 ad, 2 juv), 24 Dec-19 Feb (CCC, JR:ph, BS:ph); HomerL FP (Champaign Co) (5; yellow neck band #s 35E, 37E, 39E, & 40E), 17 Dec (MPW); LostMound (4), 16 Dec (RN); EvergreenL (McLean & Woodford Cos) (4), 2-13 Jan (BMy:ph et al.); Farmer City (Piatt Co) (4; 2 ad & 2 juv), 12 Dec (JML); *Perry & Randolph* (4), 26 Dec (TJD); *Jasper* (3), 23 Dec (fide JWW); GlenviewL (Cook Co) (2), 20 Feb (ABA); HennepinL (2), 8 Dec & 18 Feb (BC, DFS); *McLean* (2), 20 Dec (MEF); KLMSNA (2), 1 Jan (CD, PD); SpringL (Carroll Co), 17 Dec (BJS); Wilmington Dam (Will Co), 14 Feb (JBH).

Tundra Swan

MC: 760, MissR (Whiteside Co), 17 Dec (EWW); 722, MissR (Carroll & Whiteside Cos), 20 Dec (*KJM, MBr, DA, *EA, m.ob.); 117, *Wayne & Richland*, 15 Feb (CLH, RES); 85, Rock Creek (Adams Co), 15 Feb (AGD); 61, ClintonL, 19 Feb (GSL); 45, KCP, 19 Feb (SR); 14, SantaFe, 12 Feb (DMK); 14, *Edwards*, 26 Jan (RES). **Others**: L&D 13 (Whiteside Co) (60), 17 Feb (ASt); BraidwoodL (Will Co) (39), 26 Jan (JBH); Oakwood (Vermilion Co) (31), 19 Feb (JR, BS); EvergreenL (McLean Co) (13 ad, 8 imm), 26 Jan (MJW, THr); WinthropH (17), 21 Jan (FRM); Evanston (Cook Co) (12), 21 Jan (FRM); River Bend FP (Champaign Co ("several" & 12), 18 Jan & 17 Feb (MAM & EJC resp); MissR (Rock Island Co) (11), 22 Jan (EWW); HennepinL (11), 7 Jan (BC); Marengo Ridge FP (McHenry Co) (9), 16 Dec (KML); Glacial Pk (McHenry Co) (8), 4 Jan (RAM); ShabbonaL (DeKalb Co) (8 & 4), 18 Feb & 8-17 Feb resp (DAL:ph et al.); Chann (8), 23 Dec - 29 Jan (4 ad, 4 juv) (JAS, AFS, AA); HL (8), 24 Dec (EWW); Elburn FP (Kane Co) (7), 2 Dec (DJS); Chau (6), 3 Feb (RGB, SNB); EForkL (6), 12 Dec (CLH); *Union* (6), 28 Dec (HDB, PW); Winfield Twp ("Pella Ponds", DuPage Co) & Fermi (5), 3 & 5 Feb (AA & DSa resp); CarsonSl (Aurora, Kane Co) (4), 19 Feb (SFd); HeideckeL (Grundy Co) (4), 10 Dec (SJH); *Will* (4), 15 Jan (JIN, JAS, MJW); Independence Grove FP (Lake Co) (3), 28-29 Dec (AFS & JS); MissR (St. Clair Co) (3), 24 Dec (EWW); CarlL-C (2), 14-15 Jan (TAM, DMK); Wauk, 12 Dec (EWW); Glenwood FP (Kane Co), 30 Jan (SFk); LCal (imm), 22 Jan (WJM, CDH); LSpfld (ad), 31 Dec (HDB).

Wood Duck

MC: 54, UCCA, 29 Dec (KJM); 27 & 24, Spfld (Washington Pk), 5 Dec & 13 Jan resp (HDB); 8, CarlL-C, 4 Dec (DMK); 6, HennepinL, 8 Dec (DFS); 5&3, Chi (No. Pond) (3), 3 Dec & 14 Jan resp (JIN); 5, Chau, 1 Dec (RGB, SNB); 4, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); 2, QC, 18 Dec (TM, BL, m.ob.). **Others**: *Wabash* (6), 8 Feb (RES); *Richland* (5), 24 Feb (CLH); *St. Clair* (3), 5 Feb (TJD); Ark (3), 27 Dec (KJM); DolanL (Hamilton Co) (3), 20 Feb (CLH); HLCA (3), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); Woodridge (2♂), 9 Dec (FA); RendL-F (2), 11 Dec (KAM); ShabbonaL (DeKalb Co) (♂), 9 Feb (AFS); LCal (♂), 1,22 Jan (WJM); *Rock Island* (♀), 22 Dec (KJM, LB); AndalSl (♀), 26 Dec (KJM, CAT); PLNWR, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM); Kankakee (Dam) (♀), 13 Dec - 31 Jan (JBH); HomerL FP (Champaign Co), 17 Dec (MPW); Danville (Vermilion Co) (♀), 1 Jan (SDB, PAM); HLCA (♂), 28 Dec (KJM).

Gadwall

MC: 814, Ark, 27 Dec (KJM); 800, RendL, 11 Dec (KAM); 450, Des Plaines CA (Will Co), 4 Feb (DFS); 401, ClintonL, 27 Jan (MEF); 320, Chann, 7 Jan (JAS); 188, Chau, 3 Feb (RGB, SNB). **Others**: HLCA (343), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); UCCA (137), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); CarlL-C (60), 8 Jan (DMK); WhalonL (DuPage Co) (59), 31 Dec (AA); LCal (53), 15 Jan (WJM); Goose Lake Twp (Grundy Co) (43), 1 Jan (JAS); Emiquon (43), 8 Jan (LLH); *Jackson* (10), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); MissR (Carroll & Whiteside Cos) (9), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); LZurich (Lake Co) (5), 11 Dec (JRS); Cranberry Slough NP (Cook Co) (4), 1 Jan (KKM); CBG (8), 2 Jan (LW, FRM); *Woodford* (3), 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); QC (2), 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr); BraidwoodL (Will Co) (2), 10 Dec – 26 Jan (JBH); ClintonL (2), 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK).

American Wigeon

MC: 135, CONWR, 30 Jan (KAM); 60, CarlL-C, 20.25 Feb (DMK); 60, Ark, 27 Dec (JAS, JIN, KJM); 10, Chau, 16 Feb (RGB, SNB); 3, Des Plaines CA (Will Co), 4 Feb (DFS). **Others**: HLCA (46), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); RendL-J (20), 11 Dec (KAM); River Bend FP (Champaign Co) (7), 1 Feb (MAM); EvergreenL (Woodford Co) (6), 23 Jan (MJW); Urbana (4), 13 Dec (DLT); ShabbonaL (DeKalb Co) (8 & 3), 26 & 9 Feb (NB & AFS resp); UCCA (3), 29 Dec (KJM); Kildeer (Kemper Lakes, Lake Co) (2), 11 Dec (JRS); Zion (Shiloh Pk) (♀), 12 Feb (JSS); BangsL, Wauconda (Lake Co), 7 Dec (BJS, NM, PP); LCal (♂), 1 Jan (WJM); PLNWR (♂), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM); MissR (Whiteside Co), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); BraidwoodL (Will Co), 27 Jan (JBH); HL, 12 Dec< (FRH).

American Black Duck

MC: 35, HennepinL, 8 Dec (DFS); 26, HeideckeL (Grundy Co), 26 Feb (JAS); 18, Rckfd, 5 Jan (DTW, BCW); 18, MissR (Carroll Co), 20 Dec (EA, RN, m.ob.); 15, RendL-J, 25 Jan (KAM); 14, Chau, 3-16 Feb (RGB, SNB); 10, Danville (Vermilion Co), 1 Jan (SDB, PAM); 10, CarlL-C, 12 Feb (DMK). **Others**: L&D 13 (Whiteside Co) (10), 17 Feb (ASt); UCCA (10), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); BraidwoodL (Will Co) (13), 13 Feb (JBH); LMarie (Lake Co) (7), 24 Dec (JRS, RC); LCal (6), 7 Jan (CAT, TLK); RockCut (4), 12 Dec (DTW); PLNWR (4), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); WinthropH (4), 13 Jan (BJS); Bloomington (McLean Co) (4), 24 Jan (MJW); Urbana (4), 13 Dec (DLT); Ark (3), 27 Dec (KJM). **Hybrid**: **American Black Duck x Mallard**: Bloomington (McLean Co), 24 Jan (MJW); HL, 19 Feb> (FRH).

Mallard

MC: 10, 450, HennepinL, 8 Dec (DFS); 9,925, Chau, 16 Feb (RGB, SNB); 6,000, CarlL-C, 12,19-20 Feb (DMK); 4,828, ClintonL, 18 Dec (MEF); 4,500, Vienna Twp (Grundy Co), 17 Jan (REF et al.); 2,420, KLMSNA, 16 Dec (CD, PD); 661, *Carroll & Whiteside*, 20 Dec (EA, RN, m.ob.). **Others**: *Mercer* (3,505), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); Ark (1,530), 27 Dec (KJM); *Alexander* (1,024), 28 Dec (KJM); 1,000, Minooka (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS); RendL (725), 17 Dec (KAM); UCCA (640), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); BraidwoodL (Will Co) (550), 8 Dec (JBH); QC (533), 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); River Bend FP (Champaign Co ("several" & 12), 18 Jan & 17 Feb (MAM & EJC resp); Winfield Twp ("Pella Ponds", DuPage Co) (400), 3 Feb (AA); LCal (350), 7 Jan (CAT, TLK); *Bureau* (300), 13 Dec (KJM); Urbana (Champaign Co) (232), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); LZurich (Lake Co) (205), 11 Dec (JRS); *Rock Island* (181), 26 Dec (KJM, CAT, m.ob.); MermetL (157), 30 Jan (KAM); RockR (Whiteside Co) (150), 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); Chann (150), 7 Jan (KAM); *Woodford* (150), 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); CONWR (150), 30 Jan (KAM); KankakeePks (140), 9 Dec (JBH); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (130), 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); Wilmington Dam (Will Co) (110), 10 Dec (JBH); *Henry* (100), 13 Dec (KJM).

Hybrid: **Mallard x Northern Pintail** – LCal (ad ♂), 17 Dec-8 Jan (*WJM, JIE, NM).

Blue-winged Teal

Momemcel Pk (Kankakee Co) (♂), 22 Jan – 10 Feb (JBH); Spfld (sewage pond), 16 Dec (HDB).

Northern Shoveler

MC: 800, CarlL-C, 26 Feb (DMK); 250, MissR (Adams Co), 28 Feb (AGD); 182, HLCA, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 89, BangsL (Lake Co), 7 Dec (BJS, NM, PP); 72, MissR (Carroll Co), 20 Dec (EA, RN); 40, Chann, 23 Dec (JAS); 31, Chau., 1 Dec (RGB, SNB). **Others**: Ark (79), 27 Dec (KJM); *St. Clair* (75), 25 Feb (TJD); CONWR (60), 30 Jan (KAM); RendL-J (52), 25 Jan (KAM); *Madison* (50), 13 Dec (KAM); HennepinL (45), 8 Dec (DFS); ShabbonaL (DeKalb Co) (25), 26 Feb (NB); *Pulaski* (20), 30 Jan (KAM); Emiquon (8), 26 Dec (LLH); *Woodford* (6), 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); RollinsSav (5), 6 Dec (SDB); Kildeer (Kemper Lakes, Lake Co) (5), 11 Dec (JRS); LCal (5), 22 Feb (WJM); Bloomington (McLean Co) ("many"), 17 Dec (BW); Urbana (2), 13 Dec (DLT); UCCA (2), 29 Dec (KJM); PLNWR, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM); RockR (Rock Island Co), 18 Dec (TM, BL).

Northern Pintail

MC: **10,000**, CarlL-C, 20 Feb (DMK); 1,715, Chau, 16 Feb (RGB, SNB); 1,000, *Wayne & Richland*, 1 Jan-29 Feb (CLH); 220, EvergreenL (Woodford Co), 23 Jan (MJW); 10, RollinsSav, 11 Dec (JRS); 5, QC, 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr); 5, LCal, 12 Feb (WJM). **Others**: ShabbonaL (DeKalb Co) (30 & ♂), 26 & 9 Feb (NB & AFS resp); UCCA (28), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); RendL-J (25), 11 Dec (KAM); Kankakee (Dam) (23), 23 Jan (JBH); PRKWA (22), 12 Feb (TJD); HLCA (17), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); HeideckeL (Grundy Co) (12), 15 Feb (AFS, APS); Urbana (11), 13 Dec (DLT); Shobonier (Fayette Co) (10), 3 Feb> (EWW); Gurnee (Lake Co) (7), 3 Dec (PB); BraidwoodL (Will Co) (7 & 11), 31 Jan & 14 Feb resp (JBH); SpoonR (Fulton Co) (7 ♂), 19 Feb (LLH); Ark (7), 27 Dec (KJM); Ferne Clyffe SP (Johnson Co) (4), 30 Jan (KAM); MissR (Whiteside Co) (2), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); WinthropH (pr), 27 Jan> (EWW); Batavia (FoxR, Kane Co) (pr), 28 Jan (DL); *Woodford* (2), 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); Oakwood (Vermilion Co) (2), 19 Feb (JR, BS); Independence Grove FP (Lake Co) (♂), 24 Jan (BJS); WhalonL (Will Co) (2), 1 & 23 Feb (JAS); PeacockM (Will Co), 7 Jan (JIN); PLNWR (♂), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM); *Rock Island* (♀), 26 Dec (KJM, CAT); HL, 11 Dec< (FRH); Stephen A. Forbes SP (Marion Co) (♀), 12 Feb (KAM).

Green-winged Teal

MC: **7,550**, Chau, 1 Dec (RGB, SNB); 300, MissR (Adams Co), 28 Feb (AGD); 245, *St. Clair*, 4 Dec (TJD); 200, CarlL-C, 25-26 Feb (DMK); 150, RendL-J, 11 Dec (KAM). **Others**: UCCA (26), 29 Dec (KJM); CONWR (20), 30 Jan (KAM); Spfld (15), 18 Dec (HDB); Ark (10), 27 Dec (KJM); HLCA (9), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); Bloomington (McLean Co) (8), 24 Jan (MJW); PeacockM (Will Co) (4), 1-10 Jan (DFS, AFS); Kankakee (Dam) (4), 23 Jan (JBH); NewtonL (Jasper Co) (4), 23 Dec (fide JWW); HiddenL FP (DuPage Co) (2♂), 8 Jan (UWG); ShabbonaL SP (DeKalb Co) (2), 14 Jan (DJS); Kildeer (Kemper Lakes, Lake Co), 11 Dec (JRS); Geneva Twp (Kane Co) (♀), 17 Dec (AFS, APS); *Mercer*, 15 Dec (TM, JSg, DFh); HL, 12 Dec-26 Feb (FRH).

Canvasback

MC: 25,000, MissR (Hancock Co), 5 Jan (AGD); 6,540, MissR (Carroll & Whiteside Cos), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); 1,500, CarlL-C, 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); 430, MissR (Rock Island Co), 22 Jan (EWW); 407, Chau, 16 Feb (RGB, SNB); 185, HL, 26 Feb (FRH). **Others**: Chann (180), 18 Feb (JAS); CONWR (70), 30 Jan (KAM); Shabbona Lake SP (DeKalb Co) (60 & 5), 26 Feb & 7 Dec (NB & ASh resp); RendL (20), 11 Dec (KAM); BangsL (8), Wauconda (Lake Co), 13 Dec (BJS); Normal (Heartland Community College, McLean Co) (8), 11 Feb (BMy); Wilmington Dam (Will Co) (4), 15 Jan (JBH); El Paso Sewage Lagoons (Woodford Co) (3♀, ♂), 9 Feb (BMy); Chi (2), 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); LZurich (Lake Co) (2), 13 Dec (BJS); Independence Grove FP (Lake Co) (♂), 3 Feb (AFS); RockR (Whiteside Co), 24 Dec (DA, DHh); Emiquon (♂), 8 Jan (LLH); LCharleston (Coles Co), 20 Jan (RB); NewtonL (Jasper Co), 23 Dec (MPW, PW); Ark, 27 Dec (KJM).

Redhead

MC: 120, CarlL-C, 19 Feb (DMK); 60, LCal, 1 Feb (WJM); 31, RendL, 17 Dec (KAM); 26, MissR (Whiteside Co), 22 Jan (EWW); 10, ClearL, 23 Dec (RGB, SNB); 5, MissR (Adams Co), 1 Jan (AGD). **Others**: Independence Grove FP (Lake Co) (14-33), 31 Dec – 3 Feb (NM, AFS); ShabbonaL (DeKalb Co) (30 & 4♂, 5♀), 26 & 9 Feb (NB & AFS resp); LCal (20), 7 Jan (CAT, TLK); HLCA (14), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); Highland Park (LMich) (13), 4 Dec (BJS); DiamondL (Mundelein, Lake Co) (10), 11 Dec (JRS); WinthropH (9), 28 Dec-18 Feb (AFS, SDB, KAM); Montrose (4), 2 Jan (ND); Gillson Pk (Wilmette, Cook Co) (♂&♀), 23 Dec (WSG, DP); QC (2), 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr); MissR (Rock Island Co) (♀), 26 Dec (KJM, CAT); Seward Twp (Kendall Co) (30), 1 Jan (DFS); Kankakee (Dam), 20 Jan – 11 Feb (JBH); Urbana, 13 Dec (DLT).

Ring-necked Duck

MC: 1,260, HLCA, 28 Dec (KJM); 1,088, Chau, 16 Feb (RGB, SNB); 600, CarlL-C, 5 Feb (DMK); 240, HL, 26 Feb (FRH); 100, ShabbonaL (DeKalb Co), 26 Feb (NB); 21, MissR, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); **Others**: CONWR (200), 30 Jan (KAM); *Pulaski* (70), 30 Jan (KAM); LCal (53), 29 Jan (WJM); RendL (30), 11 Dec (KAM); Bloomington (gravel pit ponds, McLean Co) (25), 24 Jan (MJW); EvergreenL (Woodford Co) (20), 23 Jan (MJW); ClintonL (16), 19 Feb (GSL); NewtonL (Jasper Co) (16), 23 Dec (fide JWW); UCCA (16), 29 Dec (KJM); WhalonL (Will Co) (14), 23 Feb (JAS); QC (6), 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.); Ark (6), 27 Dec (KJM); Skokie Lagoons (Tower Rd, Cook Co) (10), 7 Feb (AFS); AndalSl (4), 26 Dec (KJM, CAT); Independence Grove FP (Lake Co) (3♂), 20 Dec (AFS); Kennekuk CP (Vermilion Co) (3), 1 Jan (MJE); Goose Lake Twp (Grundy Co) (2), 1 Jan (JAS); Kankakee (Dam) (2), 23 Jan (JBH); LostMound, 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); Van Patten Wds FP (Lake Co) (♂), 11 Jan (AFS); Independence Grove FP (Lake Co) (♂), 11 Jan (AFS); St. Mary's Seminary (Mundelein, Lake Co) (♂), 1 Jan (AFS); Chi (DiverseyH) (♀), 5 Jan (MF).

Greater Scaup

MC: 1,400, IBSP, 15 Dec (EWW); 149, Chi, 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); 40, CarlL-C, 5 Feb (DMK); 18, Dickson Mounds (Fulton Co), 22 Dec – 1 Jan (KBR & TWd, CDn); 17, EForkL, 8 Jan (CLH); **Others**: JP (71), 26 Feb (PRC); MissR, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co) (16), 17 Dec (BJS); BangsL (Lake Co) (12), 13 Dec (BJS); DiamondL (Mundelein, Lake Co) (10), 13 Dec (BJS); L&D 14 (Rock Island Co) ("bunch"), 6 Feb (KBR); ShabbonaL (DeKalb Co) (4), 26 Feb (NB); QC (4), 18 Dec (*BLB, CB, MBr); HL, 1 Dec< (FRH); BeallWds, 25 Feb (CLH).

Lesser Scaup

MC: 1,600, CarlL-C, 12 Feb (DMK); 605, MissR (Whiteside Co), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); 500, LCal, 22 Jan (WJM, CDH); 365, Chau, 3 Feb (RGB, SNB); 34, Stephen A. Forbes SP (Marion Co), 12 Feb (KAM). **Others**: MissR (Rock Island Co) (400), 19 Feb (JAS); ShabbonaL SP (DeKalb Co) (150 & ♀), 26 Feb & 14 Jan (NB & DJS resp); WhalonL (Will Co) (23), 23 Feb (JAS); Chann (20), 7 Jan (KAM); RendL (20), 11 Dec (KAM); NewtonL (Jasper Co) (13), 23 Dec (fide JWW); MissR, L&D 13 (12), 17 Dec (BJS); Ark (6), 27 Dec (KJM); Emiquon (6), 8 Jan (LLH); LostMound (4), 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); Skokie Lagoons (Tower Rd, Cook Co) (4), 11 Feb (SDB); Bloomington (McLean Co) (4), 24 Jan (MJW); RockR (Whiteside Co) (3 ♂), 24 Dec (KJM); HLCA (3), 28 Dec (KJM); BraidwoodL (Will Co) (2), 14 Jan (JBH); LVerm (♀), 1 Jan (SDB).

Harlequin Duck

Chi (DiversevH) (♀), 25 Dec - 29 Feb (AG, SGS:ph, SBB, KJM m.ob.:ph), but 2 (♂&♀) @ Chi (NorthcrlyI), 24 Dec (fide DFS) & ♂ there 16 Jan (RDH:ph, KKM); Emiquon (ThompsonL) (♀), 19 Feb (KBR).

Surf Scoter

IBSP (No. Unit) (4), 12 Feb (JSS); Zion (Hosah Pk & WinthropH, Lake Co) (3), 4 Feb (BJS); BorahL (Richland Co) (2), 1-9 Dec (CLH); RockCut, 18-22 Dec (DTW, ASh); MissR (Rock Island Co) (♀), 18 Dec (*KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); Chi (Rainbow Beach) (♀), 16 Jan (RDH:ph, KKM); Bloomington (McLean Co) (♀), 17 -24 Dec (BW et al.); LCharleston (Coles Co), 20-23 Jan & 14-15 Feb (♂) (RB, DTW & RB, SDB, PAM resp).

White-winged Scoter

MC: 56, IBSP (No. Unit) 17 Feb (EG:ph). **Others**: WinthropH (2), 3 Feb (AFS); Wauk (2), 23 Feb (EWW); JP (imm ♂; found dead 28 Feb), 17-27 Feb (SBB, PRC et al.); SaganashkeeSl, 29 Feb (SZ); MissR (Rock Island Co), 28 Jan (DTW); EForkL, 30 Dec (CLH).

Black Scoter

IBSP (♀ type), 7 & 31 Jan (RDH, KKM & EWW); CarlL-C, 2 Dec (JBn).

Long-tailed Duck

MC: **95**, IBSP, 2 Feb> (EWW). **Others**: Wauk (5), 23 Feb (PB); WinthropH (2), 27 Jan – 18 Feb (SDB, EWW); Chi (2 ♀), 2 Dec (MF:ph); Emiquon (pr) , 8 Jan (LLH); ClintonL (2), 27 Jan (MEF); RockCut, 18-21 Dec (DTW, ASh); Gillson Pk (Wilmette, Cook Co) (♂), 23 Dec (WSG, DP, AFS); Chau, 18 Dec (KBR) & Emiquon (ThompsonL) (♀), 28 Dec & (♂, 2♀), 7-8 Jan (KBR & MI); MissR (Adams Co), 2 Dec (AGD); LCharleston (Coles Co), 3 Jan (RB); *Madison*, 11 Feb> (FRH); CarlL-C (♀), 15 Jan-12 Feb (TAM, DMK, KBR).

Bufflehead

MC: 338, ClintonL, 9 Dec (MEF); 100, BangsL, Wauconda (Lake Co), 7 Dec (BJS, NM, PP); 72, Central City (Marion Co), 4 Dec (EWW); 60, MissR (Whiteside Co), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); 50, CarlL-C, 3 Dec (DMK); 38, Chau, 9 Dec (RGB, SNB); 26, NewtonL (slurry pond), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); 14, LShel-M, 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); 11, MissR (Rock Island Co), 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.). **Others**: LCal (50), 8 Jan (NM, JIE); Wauk (24), 20 Dec (AFS); WinthropH (11), 28 Dec (AFS); Independence Grove FP (Lake Co) (12), 28 Dec (AFS); CONWR (10), 30 Jan (KAM); BangsL (Lake Co) (16), 16 Dec (BJS, NM, PP); RendL (5), 17 Dec (KAM); LostMound (4), 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); Chi (4), 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); BraidwoodL (Will Co) (3), 13 Feb (JBH); Emiquon (2), 7 Jan (KAM); MissR (Adams Co) (2), 22 Feb (AGD); Skokie Lagoons (Tower Rd, Cook Co) (♂), 11 Feb (SDB); RockR (Whiteside Co) (♂), 24 Dec (KJM); OakBot (♀), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ).

Female Harlequin Duck. Diversey Harbor, Chicago, Cook County. 6 February 2012. Photo by Jackie Bowman.

White-winged Scoter. Jackson Park, Chicago, Cook County. 26 February 2012. Photo by Mark Bowman.

Common Goldeneye

MC: 4,250, MissR (Carroll & Whiteside Cos), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); 3,000, CarlL-C, 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); 1,500, MissR (Hancock Co), 5 Jan (AGD); 1,000, MissR (Rock Island Co), 19 Feb (JAS); 200, Emiquon, 7 Jan (KAM); 85, PRKWA, 29 Jan (TJD). **Others**: MissR (Whiteside & Rock Island Cos) (750), 13 Jan (KJM); *Cook* (318), 7 Feb (WJM); Skokie Lagoons (Tower Rd, Cook Co) (227), 10 Feb (AFS); LCal (140), 22 Jan (WJM); ClintonL (126), 27 Jan (MEF); Wilmington Dam (Will Co) (120), 14 Jan (JBH); Chau (96), 16 Feb (RGB, SNB); Chi (79), 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); RendL (60), 25 Jan (KAM); RockR (Whiteside Co) (54), 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); *LaSalle* (50), 5 Feb (BC); ClintonL (40), 19 Feb (GSL); LShel-M (39), 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); MissR (Mercer Co) (30), 15 Jan (KJM); NewtonL (Jasper Co) (8), 23 Dec (fide JWW); Ark (3), 27 Dec (KJM).

Hybrid: Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser – Emiquon (ThompsonL) (♂), 8 Jan (KBR); CarlL-C (♂), 14 Jan (DMK).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE

Skokie Lagoons FP (Tower Rd) (Cook Co) (ad ♂), 3-22 Feb (GG, ADF, SDB, AFS m.ob.:ph).

Hooded Merganser

MC: 129, ClintonL, 9 Dec (MEF); 111, *Madison*, 17 Dec (FRH); 73, *Will*, 11 Dec (JAS); 36, Central City (Marion Co), 4 Dec (EWW); 35, HennepinL, 8 Dec (DFS); 30, Emiquon, 7 Jan (KAM); 21, 12 & 26 Wauk, 3 & 20 & 28 Dec resp (AFS). **Others**: CarlL-C (30), 18 Dec (DMK); NWU (23), 13 Dec (AFS); AlmondM (Lake Co) (20), 6 Dec (SDB); RendL-F (20), 17 Dec (DMK); LVerm (16), 1 Jan (SDB, PAM); KLMSNA (14), 23 Feb (CD, PD); ClearL (13), 9 Dec (RGB, SNB); Wilmington Dam (Will Co) (12), 14 Jan (JBH); BangsL, Wauconda (Lake Co) (8), 13 Dec (BJS); LZurich (Lake Co) (7), 13 Dec (BJS); Gillson Pk (Wilmette, Cook Co) (6), 23 Dec (WSG, DP); Chi (4; ♂, 3♀), 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); HLCA (7), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); MissR (Whiteside Co) (5), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); QC (3), 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); WinthropH (2), 28 Jan (KAM).

Male Barrow's Goldeneye with male Common Goldeneye and two female goldeneyes. Skokie Lagoons, Cook County. 3 February 2012. Photo by Mark Bowman.

Common Merganser

MC: 800, MissR (Whiteside & Rock Island Cos), 13 Jan (KJM); 600, Chi (BurnhamH), 27 Jan (DFS); 540, ClearL, 3 Feb (RGB, SNB); 421, MissR (Carroll & Whiteside Cos), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); 400, Emiquon, 7 Jan (KAM); 200, CarlL-C, 14 Jan (DMK); 70, PRKWA, 29 Jan (TJD). **Others**: HennepinL (540), 29 Dec (DFS); LRen (400), 26 Feb (JAS); LCal (294), 1 Feb (WJM); *LaSalle* (240), 4 Feb (BC); ClintonL (232), 27 Jan (MEF); WinthropH (230), 27 Jan (EWW); Saganashkee Sl (Cook Co) (211 & 180), 6 Feb & 18 Dec (AFS & WJM m.ob. resp); MissR (Rock Island Co) (80), 14 Jan (KJM); Heidecke Lk (Grundy Co) (40), 22 Dec (AFS, APS); MissR (Mercer Co) (30), 15 Jan (KJM); LostMound (29), 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); Skokie Lagoons (Cook Co) (21), 24 Dec (WSG, DP); ShabbonaL SP (DeKalb Co) (20), 26 Feb (NB); *Jasper* (12), 8 Dec (CLH); LVerm (3♀), 1 Jan (SDB, PAM); EForkL (2), 11 Dec (CLH); HL, 19 Feb (FRH).

Red-breasted Merganser

MC: 499, Chi, 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); 130, IBSP, 2 Feb (EWW); 61, ClintonL, 2 Dec (MEF); 40, Charleston (Coles Co), 4 Dec (EWW); 37, RendL-F, 11 Dec (KAM); 12, CarlL-C, 18 Dec (DMK); **Others**: LCal (112), 3 Jan (WJM); Montrose (38), 2 Jan (ND); WinthropH (20), 28 Jan (KAM); Emiquon (20), 7 Jan (KAM); CBG (15), 15 Dec (AFS); NWU (15), 23 Dec (AFS); Chau (8), 9 Dec (RGB, SNB); EForkL (7♂), 21 Feb (CLH); ShabbonaL SP (DeKalb Co) (4), 26 Feb (NB); StarvedRock (2), 22 Jan (BC); MissR (Adams Co) (2), 28 Feb (AGD); QC (ad ♂), 18 Dec (*BLB, CB, MBr); MissR (Whiteside Co) (ad ♂), 20 Dec (*KJM, DA, MBr); BraidwoodL (Will Co) (♀), 26 Jan (JBH); LShel-M, 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); NewtonL (Jasper Co), 23 Dec (fide JWW); Ark (♀), 27 Dec (KJM).

Ruddy Duck

MC: 1,200, CarlL-C, 20 Feb (DMK); 1,038, Chau, 9 Dec (RGB, SNB); 250, MissR (Carroll & Whiteside Cos), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); 170, Lebanon (St. Clair Co), 4 Dec (EWW); 86, Emiquon, 8 Jan (LLH). **Others**: RendL (80), 11 Dec (KAM); ClintonL (56), 9 Dec (MEF); HL (50), 8 Jan (KAM); Skokie Lagoons (Cook Co) (37; 8♂), 24 Dec (WSG, DP); MissR, LostMound (18), 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); BangsL, Wauconda (Lake Co) (12), 7 Dec (BJS, NM, PP); MissR (Rock Island Co) (5), 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); MissR (Adams Co) (5), 28 Feb (AGD); ShabbonaL SP (DeKalb Co) (4), 14 Jan (DJS); RockCut (3), 12 Dec (DTW); LCal (3), 12 Feb (WJM); Ark, 27 Dec (KJM); WinthropH (♀), 25-30 Jan (EWW).

Northern Bobwhite

MC: 10, *Mercer*, 3 Jan (SBH); 10, *Jasper*, 23 Dec (fide JWW); 8, CarlL-C, 10 Dec-4 Feb (DMK); 7, *Edwards*, 24 Feb (RES). **Others**: *Rock Island*, 4 Jan (RRB, JSg, HA); RendL-J, 25 Jan (KAM).

Gray Partridge

Once again, no reports and likely extirpated from Illinois.

Ring-necked Pheasant

MC: 59, Urbana (Champaign Co), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); 16, CarlL, 27 Dec (KAM); 12, RendL, 25 Jan (KAM); 5, GreenR, 24 Dec (KJM); 3, LShel-S, 2 Jan (DMK). **Others**: KankakeePks (3), 7 Dec (JBH); ClintonL (3), 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); Aurora West FP & Aurora (Kane Co), 17 Dec & 22 Jan (AA & YJ resp); Nachusa, 18 Dec (EWW); *Mercer*, 15 Dec (CDM, JLM); GLPSNA, 5 Feb (JIN, JAS, KML); *Perry*, 28 Feb (RES).

Greater Prairie-Chicken

28, PrRdg-M, 7 Feb (RES, CLH); 18, PrRdg-J, 22 Feb (RES).

Wild Turkey

MC: 128, *LaSalle*, 21 Jan (JAS); 54, *Jasper*, 23 Dec (fide JWW); 50, *Richland*, 16 Jan (CLH); 48, *St. Clair*, 29 Jan (TJD); 45, Erienna Twp (Grundy Co), 22 Dec (AFS, APS); 43, *Knox*, 6 Jan (LLH); 27, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.). **Others**: *Mercer* (43), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); UCCA (41), 29 Dec (KJM); *Wabash* (37), 7 Dec (RES); Vermilion (30), 1 Jan (MPW, GSL, MML); Jo Daviess (25), 17 Dec (BJS); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (24), 22 Dec (EA, RN, m.ob.); CarlL (22), 27 Dec (KAM); Rckfd (21), 28 Feb (DTW); Erienna Twp (Grundy Co) (20), 17 Jan (REF et al.); Beaverville Twp (Iroquois Co) (19), 1 Jan (JBH); *Edwards* (19), 26 Jan (RES); *Winnebago* (17), 29 Feb (DTW); *Adams* (17), 28 Feb (AGD); RendL (16), 11 Dec (KAM); HeideckeL (Grundy Co) (15), 11 Dec (EWW); *Rock Island* (13), 26 Dec (CDM, JLM, m.ob.); *Carroll* (12), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); *Henry* (12), 10 Dec (KJM); *Bureau* (6), 22 Jan (EWW); MiddleforkR areas (Vermilion Co) (5), 1 Jan (MML); *Madison* (5), 6 Jan (KAM).

Red-throated Loon. Montrose, Cook County. 25 December 2011. Photo by Robert Hughes.

Red-throated Loon

MC: 4, Wauk, 18 Feb (NG et al.); 3 (ad, 2 unk) & 2, IBSP & IBSP (No. Unit), WinthropH & IBSP (No. Unit), 2 & 3 & 17 Feb> (*EWW:ph & AFS & EG resp). **Others**: Montrose, 25 Dec (RDH:ph); LSpfldCarlL-C (imm), 27-31 Dec (*DMK:ph, KAM); EForkL (imm), 3-14 Dec (*CLH, MSS, EWW).

Pacific Loon

IBSP (imm), 31 Jan (*EWW); ClintonL, 18-22 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK, PAM).

Common Loon

MC: 11 & 6, ClintonL, 2 & 18 Dec (MEF & SDB, PAM resp); 6, RendL-F & 4, RendL-J, 17 Dec & 17 Feb (DMK & BD resp); 4, CarlL-C, 3 Dec (DMK); 4, Ark, 27 Dec (KJM). **Others**: Lake Zurich (Lake Co) (3), 4 Dec (CSF); Lake Forest beach (Lake Co) (2), 4 Dec (BJS); EForkL (2), 5 Dec (CLH); Chau (2), 9 Dec (RGB, SNB); RockCut, 12 Dec (DTW); WinthropH, 24 Jan (BJS); IBSP, 1 Jan (BJS, JSS); SterlingL (Lake Co), 28 Dec (AFS); DiamondL, Mundelein (Lake Co), 7-11 Dec (BJS, NM,PP, JRS); Heidecke Lk (Grundy Co), 22 Dec (AFS, APS); SpoonL (Knox Co), 11 Dec (MJB); AndersonL (Fulton Co), 29 Dec (TWd, CDn); Spfld, 18 Dec (HDB); HL, 1 Dec-26 Feb (FRH).

Pied-billed Grebe

MC: 86, CarlL, 4 Dec (EWW); 49 & 39 & 30, ClintonL, 2 & 18 Dec & 19 Feb (MEF & SDB, GSL, RK & GSL resp); 19, RendL, 17 Dec (KAM); 16, Ark, 27 Dec (KJM); 11, HennepinL, 8 Dec (DFS); 8, Chau, 23 Dec (RGB, SNB); 8, NewtonL (Japer Co), 23 Dec (JWW, SDB, PAM et al.); 6, LCal, 22 Jan (WJM, CDH). **Others**: KinkL (11), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); HLCA (6; 3 & 3), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM & KJM resp); UCCA (6), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); Goose Lake Twp (Grundy Co) (2), 1 Jan (JAS); BraidwoodL (Will Co) (3), 10 Dec, w/2 there 25 Feb (JBH); Emiquon (2), 26 Dec (LLH); LShel-M (2), 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); SterlingL (Lake Co), 4 Dec (BJS); Wauk, 7 & 28 Dec (AFS); BangsL (Lake Co), 13 Dec (BJS); RockR (Whiteside Co), 24 Dec (KJM); Chi, 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); Rock Run Rookery FP (Will Co), 23 Dec – 1 Jan (JAS, DFS); KSRA, 1 Jan (SDB, PAM); HL, 8 Jan< (FRH).

Horned Grebe

MC: 60, CarlL-C, 26 Dec (DMK); 50, ClintonL, 2 Dec (MEF); 23, Charleston (Coles Co), 4 Dec (EWW); 5, EForkL, 8 Dec (CLH); 7, BangsL, Wauconda (Lake Co), 7 Dec (BJS, NM, PP); 5 & 4, Wauk, 3-7 Dec, but 2 there 20 & 28 Dec (AFS, BJS); 5, RendL-F, 17 Dec (KAM, DMK). **Others**: Spfld (5), 18 Dec (HDB); Chi (BelmontH) (4), 6 Jan (AFS); *Jasper* (4), 23 Dec (fide JWW); Ark (2), 27 Dec (KJM); LZurich (Lake Co) (2), 7 Dec (BJS, NM, PP); Independence Grove FP (Lake Co), 29 Feb (JSS); WhalonL, 23-24 Dec (JAS); LCal, 15-17 Dec (WJM); Chau, 1- 23 Dec (RGB, SNB); LCharleston (Coles Co), 20 Jan (RB); HL, 8 Jan< (FRH, KAM).

Red-necked Grebe

Chi (MonroeH), 11-25 Dec (RDH:ph, KJM, JIE:ph, m.ob.); ClintonL, 9 Dec (MEF:ph); LCharleston (Coles Co), 20-23 Jan (RB:ph, DTW, SR et al.); HL, 8 Jan< (FRH, KAM); PRKWA, 12-18 Feb (TJD); CarlL-C, 10 Dec (DMK).

WESTERN GREBE

CarlL-C, 11-24 Dec (DMK).

Double-crested Cormorant

MC: 253, RendL, 17 Dec (KAM); 104, BraidwoodL (Will Co), 7 Feb (JBH); 70 (flying southwest), Rckfd (Greenwood Cem), 17 Feb (JL); 30, CarlL-C, 16 Jan (DMK); 24, Chau, 1 Dec (RGB, SNB); 34, Rock Run Rookery FP (Will Co), 1 Jan (DFS); 8, MissR (Adams Co), 28 Feb (AGD); 4, MissR (Rock Island Co), 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.). **Others**: LCal (5), 17 Dec-22 Jan (WJM, CDH); MissR (Carroll Co) (2), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); MissR (Mercer Co) (2), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); ClintonL (2), 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); *Randolph* (2), 4 Feb (KAM); Wauk (ad), 3-7 Dec (AFS, BJS); NWU, 23 Dec (AFS); Chi (Navy Pier), 5 Jan (SJH); RockR (Whiteside Co), 24 Dec (AT, ET); Emiquon (ThompsonL), 29 Dec (TWd, CDn); Spfld, 18 Dec (HDB); HL, 1 Dec-19 Feb (FRH); EForkL, 13 Dec (CLH).

American White Pelican

MC: 3,000, CarlL-C, 25 Feb (DMK); 310, MissR (St. Clair Co), 24 Dec (EWW); 125 & "lots", Emiquon, 1 Jan & 21 Feb (LLH & MI resp); 54, Chau, 6 Jan (RGB, SNB); 40, *Madison*, 15 Dec (CLH). **Others**: NelsonL (Kane Co) (25), 18 Feb (BSz); *Wayne & Richland* (5), 26 Feb> (CLH); BaldwinL (4), 22 Jan (TJD); HennepinL (2 & 1), 3 & 29 Dec (BC & DFS resp); Chann (injured bird), 8 Dec – 18 Feb (JAS, DFS, CDH, AFS et al.); MissR (Rock Island Co), 18 Dec (*BLB, CB, MBr); MissR (Mercer Co), 15 Dec (KJM, *SBH, MBr, LCM); TaylorvilleL (Christian Co), 1 Jan (CAT, TLK); HL, 29 Jan-22 Feb (FRH).

Great Blue Heron

MC: 120, CarlL-C, 16 Jan (DMK); 89, AmnBot, 23 Feb (CD, PD); 38, *Will*, 26 Feb (JAS); 27, MissR (Adams Co), 26 Jan (AGD); 20, Chau, 23 Dec (RGB, SNB); 16, QC, 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.). **Others**: RendL (22), 17 Dec (KAM); Quincy (Adams Co) (18), 22 Jan (PJR); Ark (16), 27 Dec (KJM); *Carroll & Whiteside* (14), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); Jasper (14), 23 Dec (JWW et al.); *Mercer* (13), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); *Alexander* (11), 28 Dec (KJM); Rock Run Rookery FP (Will Co) (9), 5 Feb (VS); Danville (Vermilion Co) (9), 1 Jan (BS, JR); Emiquon (8), 8 Jan (LLH); UCCA (6), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); OakBot (4), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); HLCA (3), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); AndalSl (3), 26 Dec (KJM, CAT); BraidwoodL (Will Co) (3 & 2), 8 Dec & 14 Jan resp (JBH); Rckfd (2), 19 Dec (DTW); Glenview (Techny Basin, Cook Co) (2), 6 Jan (KWG).

Great Egret

Chann 23 Dec-10 Jan (JAS, DFS, AFS); Lockport (Will Co) (same bird as previous record?), 8 Jan (JP); AmnBot, 23 Feb (CD, PD).

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Chi (So. Pond) (3 juv), 6 Jan & 8-21 Feb (JPn & AFS et al. resp); Chi (Humboldt Pk), 16 Dec (SBB); HL, 23 Jan-29 Feb (FRH).

Black Vulture

MC: 10, *Johnson*, 30 Jan (KAM); 8, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 6, *Pope*, 26 Dec (TJD); 6, *Massac*, 30 Dec (JIN, JAS, THy). **Others**: *Union* (5), 29 Dec (KJM); OakBot (4), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); *Pulaski* (3), 30 Jan (KAM).

Turkey Vulture

MC: 246, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 110, Red Hills SP (Lawrence Co), 10 Dec (CLH); 45, *Edwards*, 10 Feb (RES); 35, CarlL-C, 5 Feb (DMK). **Others**: *Pulaski* (24), 28 Dec (JAS, JIN); *Richland* (20), 12 Dec (CLH); *Union* (19), 29 Dec (KJM); OakBot (11), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); *Johnson* (10), 30 Jan (KAM); MermetL (9), 30 Jan (KAM); TaylorvilleL (Christian Co) (7), 1 Jan (CAT, TLK); *Effingham* (7), 12 Feb (KAM); Kinmundy (Marion Co) (6), 12 Feb (KAM); Belleville (St. Clair Co) (6), 4 Feb> (TJD); *Monroe* (6), 10 Dec< (TJD); Vermilion (5), 1 Jan (MJE, BS, JR); *Pope* (5), 30 Jan (KAM); Rckfd (3), 27 Feb (DTW); CBG (3), 27 Feb (AFS); LBloomington & Ewing Pk (3) (McLean Co), 31 Jan (APC & LA resp); Lake Villa (Lake Co) (2), 26 Feb (RBs); Urbana (2), 24 Feb (CKA); *Jasper* (2), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); Ridott Twp (Stephenson Co), 9 Feb (SDB); Marengo (McHenry Co), 15 Dec (KML); Downers Grove (DuPage Co), 2 Feb (REF); Chi (Rainbow Beach), 18 Feb (AFS); Hennepin (Putnam Co), 29 Dec (DFS); *LaSalle*, 15 Feb> (BC); Kankakee, 26 Feb (JBH); HL, 19 Feb> (FRH).

Bald Eagle

MC: 202 (61 ad,141 imm), *Mason*, 3 Feb (RGB, SNB); 183 (120 ad,54 imm, 9 unk), MissR (Rock Island Co), 14 Jan (KJM); 157 (45 ad,43 imm, 69 unk), AmnBot, 20 Jan (CD, PD); 144 (79 ad, 57 imm, 8 unk), MissR (Whiteside & Rock Island Cos), 13 Jan (KJM); 121 (77 ad,15 imm, 29 unk), *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); 50, CarlL-C, 12 Feb (DMK). **Others**: L&D 13 (Whiteside Co) (140), 27 Jan (ASt); MissR, LostMound (48; 21 ad, 27 imm), 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); Emiquon (ThompsonL) (44), 17 Jan (MI); *Peoria* (42), 24 Jan (TRE); MissR (Adams Co) (31; 25 ad,6 imm), 31 Jan (AGD); *Whiteside & Lee* (21; 11 ad, 5 imm, 5 unk), 24 Dec (AT, ET, m.ob.); Spfld (21), 18 Dec (HDB et al.); *St. Clair* (20), 9 Feb (KAM); StarvedRock (26), 21 Jan (ND); *Vermilion* (14; 9 ad, 5 imm), 1 Jan (SDB, m.ob); *Jasper* (12; 4 ad, 8 imm), 23 Dec (JWW, SDB et al); OakBot (10; imm), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); RendL (7; 5 ad, 2 imm), 17 Dec (KAM); UCCA (9; 6 ad, 3 imm), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Alexander* (7; 4 ad, imm, 2 unk), 28 Dec (KJM); Ridott Twp (Stephenson Co) (6; 3 ad, 3 imm), 6 Jan (SDB); Heidecke Lk (Grundy Co) (5), 22 Dec (AFS, APS); ClintonL (5), 18 Dec & 19 Feb (MEF & GSL resp); *Wayne* (5), 14 Feb (RES); RockCut (4; 2 ad, 2 imm), 25 Feb (DTW, BCW); EForkL (4), all winter (CLH); *Edwards* (4), 31 Dec (RES); Rckfd (3; 2 ad, imm), 5 Jan (DTW, BCW); *McHenry* (3 ad), 28 Jan (KAM); *Woodford* (3 ad), 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); LCal (2), 17 Dec & 15 Feb (WJM, SBB, CDH); KankakeePks (2), 3 Jan (JBH); *s. Mclean* (2 imm), 19 Feb (APC, GHr); Urbana (2), 18 Feb> (GSL); LShel-S (2 ad), 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); Seward Bluffs FP (Winnebago Co) (ad), 6 Jan (SDB); *Boone* (ad), 8 Dec (AFS, APS); Lake Villa (Lake Co) (ad migrating north), 18 Feb (RBs); Fermi (ad), 9 Feb (PQ); Skokie Lagoons (Tower Rd, Cook Co) (imm), 11 Feb (SDB); Oswego (Kendall Co) (ad), 25 Dec (MR); Saganashkee Sl (Cook Co) (ad), 5 Jan (AFS, MLT); HennepinL (ad), 8 Dec (DFS); Ark (ad), 27 Dec (KJM).

Northern Harrier

MC: 20, CarlL-C, 11 Feb (DMK); 16 (6 ad ♂,7 ad ♀, 2 imm, & 1unk), Ark, 27 Dec (KJM); 13, *Jasper*, 23 Dec (fide JWW); 10, GLPSNA, 21 Jan (JAS); 7, Fermi, 27 Jan (DSa); 7, Springbrook Pra FP (DuPage Co), 29 Jan (JLS); 5 (4 ad ♂,1 ad ♀), *Adams*, 14 Jan (PJR, AMR); 4, LostMound, 16 Dec (EA, SDB et al.); 4, Glacial Pk (McHenry Co), 4 Jan (RAM); 4, Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co), 11 Dec (SDB); 4 (1ad ♂, 3 imm), Chau, 3 Feb (RGB, SNB). **Others**: RamseyL SP (Fayette Co) (4), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); Four Lakes FP (Winnebago Co) (3; imm, 2 unk), 15 Jan (DTW); Guzy Pothole Wetlands NP (Shelby Co) (4), 1 Jan (CAT, TLK); *Rock Island* (3), 4 Jan (CDM, JLM); *Woodford/McLean* (3), 11 Dec (MJW, TEB, THr); RendL-F (3), 17 Dec (DMK); UCCA (3), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Alexander* (3; 1 ♀, 2 unk), 28 Dec (KJM); *Carroll* (2), 20 Dec (EA, RN); Sibley Grasslands (Ford Co) (2), 11 Dec (EWW); *Vermilion* (2), 1 Jan (SDB); LShel-S (2), 2 Jan (DMK); KinkL (2), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); *Pulaski* (2), 30 Jan (KAM).

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Seward Twp (Winnebago Co) (2), 21 Dec - 6 Jan (SDB); COLSP (2), 29 Jan (BJS); *Ogle* (2), 18 Dec (DTW); GreenR (2), 24 Dec (KJM); New Athens (St. Clair Co) (2; ad & imm), 4 Dec (TJD); HLCA (2), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); Rckfd, 28 Jan (KAM); KArb, 7 Jan (UWG, REF); Benton Twp (Lake Co), 4 Dec (BJS); Lake Villa (Lake Co), 26 Feb (RBs); Round Lake Beach (Lake Co), 22 Dec (BJS); Mundelein, 19 Dec (TA); Libertyville (Lake Co), 24 Dec (EL); Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co) (ad), 21 Jan (BJS); Mt. Carroll (Carroll Co) (ad ♀), 21 Jan (EWW); Forreston (Ogle Co), 19 Jan (ASt); Round Grove (Whiteside Co), 17 Dec (EWW); Batavia (Kane Co), 17 Dec (EES); *Rock Island* (ad), 22 Dec (KJM, LB); *Henry* (♀), 13 Dec (KJM); *Mercer*, 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); Kankakee (Whispering Willows Pk), 22 Feb (JBH); KankakeePks, 20 Feb (JBH); Kankakee (yard), 18 Jan – 6 Feb (JBH); Beaverville Twp (Iroquois Co), 1 Jan (JBH); Chau, 6 Jan (RGB, SNB); Urbana (Champaign Co), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); KCP, 1 Jan (MJE); PrRdg-J, 16 Feb (CLH); *Madison*, 2 Jan (KAM); CarlL-F, 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); EForkL, 13 & 29 Dec & 14 Jan (CLH); Chauncey Marsh (Lawrence Co), 22 Dec (CLH); Belleville (St. Clair Co), 29 Dec (KAM); Lively Grove (Washington Co), 10 Dec (TJD); RendL, 17 Dec (KAM); Sam DaleL SWA (Wayne Co), 11 Feb (CLH); Bellmont (Wabash Co), 24 Jan (CLH); *Union*, 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); MermetL, 30 Jan (KAM).

Cooper's Hawk

MC: 13, *Jasper*, 23 Dec (JWW et al.); 4, QC, 18 Dec (TM, BL, m.ob.); 3, Batavia (Kane Co), 17 Dec (EES); 3, *Lee*, 24 Dec (KJM, JLM); 3, *Peoria*, 24 Jan (TRE); 3, CarlL-C, 18 Dec (DMK); **Others**: Mundelein (2 @ yard feeder), 9 Dec (TA); *Ogle* (2), 18 Dec (DTW); *Rock Island* (2; ad,1unk), 26 Dec (KJM, CAT, m.ob.); Beaverville Twp (Iroquois Co) (2), 1 Jan (JBH); Bushnell (McDonough Co) (2; ad ♂, imm ♂), all winter (LLH); *Jasper* (2), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Madison* (2), 9 Dec (KAM); German Valley (Stephenson Co), 21 Dec (SDB); Seward Twp (Winnebago Co) (ad), 6 Jan (SDB); *Boone*, 8 Dec (AFS, APS); Zion (Lake Co) (ad), 5 Dec (EWW); *Carroll*, 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); Nachusa (ad), 18 Dec (EWW); *Henry*,

Leucistic Red-tailed Hawk. Channahon, Will County. 10 December 2011. Photo by Steve Huggins.

Juvenile 'Harlan's' Red-tailed Hawk. Normal, McLean County. 20 December 2011. Photo by Matt Fraker.

3 Jan (KJM, MBr); Swansea (St. Clair Co), 24 Jan (TJD); Ark, 27 Dec (KJM); *Jackson*, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); HLCA, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM).

Northern Goshawk

Chi (imm), 14 Jan (RE, AFS); Normal (McLean Co) (imm), 19 Feb (GHr).

Red-shouldered Hawk

MC: 15 & 14, UCCA (different birds), 29 Dec (KJM & SDB, PAM resp); 12, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM); 7, OakBot, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ). **Others**: Van Patten Wds FP (Lake Co) (ad), 26 Feb (JSS); LBloomington (McLean Co) (juv), 23 Jan (BMy); *Vermilion* (5), 1 Jan (GSL, MJE, PAM); CarlL-C (5), 5 Feb (DMK); *Wayne* (5), 11 Feb (CLH); *Pulaski* (4), 28 Dec (JAS, JIN); Ark (3), 27 Dec (KJM); *Johnson* (3), 30 Jan (KAM); *Bureau* (2), 15 Dec (BC, TW); *Jasper*, 23 Dec (fide JWW); *Richland* (2), 18 Feb (CLH); RendL-F (2), 17 Dec (DMK); Sugar River FP (Winnebago Co), 7 Dec (ASt); GreenR, 24 Dec (KJM); *DuPage*, 18 Dec (JIN, GAW, EWn); Park Ridge (Cook Co) (ad), 1-25 Feb (JWL et al.); QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM); *Rock Island* (ad), 14 Jan (KJM); Bushnell (McDonough Co) (ad), 28 Dec (LLH); Normal (McLean Co) (imm), 19 Feb (*GHr:ph); Spfld, 18 Dec (HDB).

Red-tailed Hawk

MC: 68, *Woodford & McLean*, 5 Feb (MEF); 47, *Rock Island*, 4 Jan (CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 40, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 36 (1 "Krider's"), *Mercer*, 15 Dec (CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 20, CarlL-C, 5,11-12 Feb (DMK); 19, *Clinton*, 14 Jan (KAM). **Others**: *s. Mclean* (26), 19 Feb (APC, GHr); *Tazewell* (25), 20 Jan (APC, MJW); *Carroll & Whiteside* (21), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); *Whiteside & Lee* (19), 24 Dec (AT, ET, m.ob.); *Henry* (14), 10 Dec (KJM); *LaSalle* (14), 18 Dec (BC, DJS); Urbana (Champaign Co) (12), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); RendL (12), 17 Dec (KAM); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (11), 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); *Woodford* (11), 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); *Jasper* (9), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); Ark (9), 27 Dec (KJM). **Other forms**: ("dark phase") - Chi (2), 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); *Knox* (2), 10 Dec (KJM); *Jackson* (2), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); L.Shel-S (2), 2 Jan (DMK); *McDonough*, 17 Dec (LLH); *Fulton*, 30 Jan (LLH); Morton Twp (Tazewell Co) (rufous morph), 18-22 Dec (DS, KBR); Normal (McLean Co) ("pale morph Harlan's"), 24 Dec (MLPR); Belleville (St. Clair Co.), 15 Jan (KAM); *Alexander* (dark, blackish "Western"), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); *De Witt* (ad "calurus"), 16 Dec (*MEF:ph); *Piatt* (ad "calurus"), 8 Jan (*MEF:ph); SouthFarms (ad rufous "calurus"), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL:ph, RK); *Woodford* (ad "Harlan's"), 18 Jan (*MEF:ph); Normal (McLean Co) (imm "Harlan's"), 20 Dec-17 Jan (*BMy, ph); *Adams*, 21 Jan (KJM); *Woodford* ("Krider's"), 5 Feb (*MEF:ph); *Fulton* ("Krider's"), 9 Feb (LLH). **Albino** – Chann, 10 Dec (SJH:ph).

Adult Golden Eagle. Yorkville, Kendall County. 11 December 2011. Photo by Larry Granat.

Rough-legged Hawk

MC: 4 (2 "light phase," 2 "dark phase"), *Clinton & Fayette*, 11 Feb (DMK); 3, *Carroll*, 20 Dec (EA, RN, m.ob.); 3, *e. LaSalle*, 17 Jan (REF et al.); 3, *McDonough & Fulton*, 17 Dec (LLH). **Others**: COLSP ("light" & "dark" phase), 29 Jan (BJS); RollinsSav ("light" & "dark" phase), 16 Jan (PP); *Whiteside & Lee* (2), 24 Dec (DA, DHh, KJM); *Rock Island* (2), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); HennepinL (2; light & dark morphs), 29 Dec (DFS); Mackinaw SF&WA ("light" & "dark" phase), 28 Jan (MJW); *DeWitt* (2), 9 Dec (MEF); *Winnebago* ("dark phase"), 17 Dec-26 Jan (DTW); Rckfd, 24 Jan (DTW); Pleasant Valley FP (McHenry Co.), 29 Jan (ADF); IBSP, 26-29 Jan (EWW); Singing Hills FP (Lake Co), 15 Jan (BJS); HennepinL, 8 Dec (DFS); *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM); *Livingston*, 29 Jan (KAM); *McLean*, 7 Jan (KAM); *Fulton* ("dark phase"), 15 Jan (LLH); Chau, 20 Jan (RGB, SNB); *no. Vermilion*, 1 Jan (GSL); Arcola (Douglas Co) ("dark phase"), 12 Feb (KAM); HL ("dark phase"), 19 Feb (*EWW:ph.); CarlL, 14 Jan (KAM); *Richland*, 17 Dec & 6 Jan (RES, CLH).

Golden Eagle

Hanover Bluff (Jo Daviess Co) (ad), 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); Kinnikinnick Crk CA (Boone Co) (ad), 28 Dec (MAM, APS); Antioch (Lake Co), 27 Feb (DAL); Chief Shabbona FP (DeKalb Co) (ad), 26 Feb (DJS); MissR (Whiteside Co) (imm), 22 Dec (*EA, RN); MissR, L&D 13 (ad), 17 Dec (BJS); Yorkville (Kendall Co) (ad), 11 Dec (LG:ph); Maine Twp (Grundy Co) (ad), 10 Dec (SJH); *Mercer* (ad), 15 Dec (*KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM); Chau (imm & ad), 20 Jan & 19 Feb (RGB, SNB & KBR resp); MissR (Adams Co) (ad), 27 Jan (AGD); CarlL-F (ad), 12 Feb (MSS, MS).

Virginia Rail

Hidden Lake FP (DuPage Co) (2), 7-15 Dec, w/ one present 18 Dec (PAM et al.); UCCA (3), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM). As has become the norm for the past ten years or more, a small cattail marsh in extreme southern Illinois once again produced at least one species of rail, which readily responded to taped calls at close range. Members of this group are very much overlooked by the Illinois birding community, and would likely be found in the winter throughout the state with careful searching in appropriate habitat.

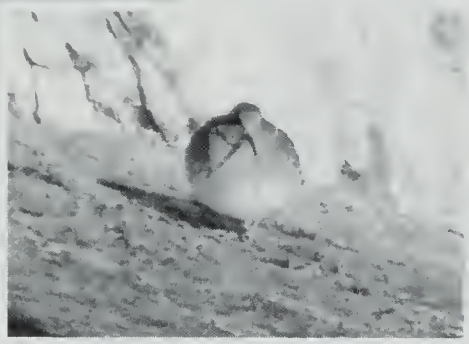
Sora

Hidden Lake FP (DuPage Co), 7-15 Dec (PAM); UCCA, 29 Dec (SDB, PAM).

American Coot

MC: 1,291, HL, 26 Feb (FRH); 1,000, HennepinL, 8 Dec (DFS); 902, HLCA, 28 Dec (KJM); 800, Chann, 18 Feb (JAS); 446, ClintonL, 27 Jan (MEF); 373, Emiquon, 8 Jan (LLH); 72, Independence Grove FP (Lake Co), 26 Feb (AFS); 52 & 40, Wauk, 3 & 7 Dec resp (AFS); 51, BangsL (Lake Co), 13 Dec (BJS). **Others**: Ark (900), 27 Dec (KJM); Chau (274), 1 Dec (RGB, SNB); KinkL (224), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); RendL (152), 17 Dec (KAM); CarlL-C (80), 26 Dec (DMK); MermetL (75), 30 Jan (KAM); Shabbona Lake SP (DeKalb Co) (60), 10 Dec (DJS); LCal (46), 29 Jan (WJM, JDk); CONWR (40), 30 Jan (KAM); Oakhurst FP (Kane Co) (36), 16 Dec (AA); River Bend FP (Champaign Co) ("several dozen" & 24), 29 Jan & 17 Feb (CL & EJC resp); LZurich (Lake Co) (26), 7 Dec (BJS, NM, PP); MissR (Whiteside Co) (20), 13 Jan (KJM); Heidecke Lk (Grundy Co) (20), 22 Dec (AFS, APS); LShel-M (19), 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); BraidwoodL (Will Co) (14), 8 Dec (JBH); Chi (12), 25 Dec (KJM, JRG,

Least Sandpipers with Killdeer. Carlyle Lake, Clinton County. 21 January 2012. Photo by Dan Kassebaum.



Purple Sandpiper. Gillson Park, Wilmette, Cook County. 16 December 2011. Photo by Eleonora di Liscia.

m.ob.); ShabbonaL SP (DeKalb Co) (7), 14 Jan (DJS); Elburn FP (Kane Co) (6), 2 Dec (DJS); Kankakee Dam (5 & 4), 9 Dec & 2 Jan resp (JBH); UCCA (3), 29 Dec (PAM); Urbana, 13 Dec (DLT); LVerm, 1 Jan (SDB, PAM).

Sandhill Crane

MC: **1,000**, *Cook*, 16 Dec (JAS); 350,Glenview (Cook Co), 8 Dec (BJM); 200, Highland Park (Lake Co), 7 Dec (Karen Franks); 171, *Wabash*, 8 Feb (RES); 100, Heron CP (Vermilion Co), 26 Feb> (BS); 60, *Richland*, 9 Jan (CLH); 48, *Edwards*, 17 Feb (RES). **Others**: Spring Valley NC (Cook Co) (235 migrating north/northwest), 17 Feb (ABA); Batavia (FoxR, Kane Co) (200), 16 Dec (KLd); Woodridge (DuPage Co) (200), 9 Dec (Kelvin Boyle); Marengo Ridge FP (McHenry Co) (150), 16 Dec (KML); CBG (110), 8 Dec (EDB); South Elgin (Kane Co) (100; flying south), 13 Jan (JLg); Kinnikinnick Crk CA (Boone Co) (97), 8 Dec (AFS, APS); MArb (87), 18 Dec (RAM, ALM, JPL); Elgin (Kane Co) (80), 6 Dec (DH); Bluff Spring Fen NP (Cook Co) (75+), 25 Dec (RH); Batavia (Kane Co) (60; flying south), 2 Jan (UWG); Oakhurst FP (Kane Co) (45), 16 Dec (AA); Naperville (DuPage Co) (42 migrating north), 17 Feb (MAM); Sweeney Wds NP (McLean Co) (40), 23 Feb (APC); LCal (WolfL) (37 flying south), 21 Feb (WJM); PrRdg-J (35), 7 Jan (CLH); Kankakee (31), 6 Dec (JBH); Algonquin (McHenry Co) (25), 7 Jan (ADF); Big Rock FP (Kane Co) (19 migrating north), 19 Feb (JH); CBG (18 flying south), 22 Feb (AFS); Chi (Hegewisch) (17 flying north), 17 Feb (WJM); QC (10), 18 Dec (*KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM); *Wayne* (10), 22 Jan (RES); Nygren Preserve (Winnebago Co) (6), 17 Dec (DTW); *Carroll* (5), 20 Dec (*EA, RN); Aurora (Kane Co) (4 on ground), 17 Dec (AA et al.); St. Anne (Kankakee Co) (4), 25 Dec (BR); *Rock Island* (3), 22 Dec (*KJM, LB); Heron CP (Vermilion Co) (2; breeding pr wintering), 1 Jan (BS, JR); Crystal Lake (Lippold Pk) (McHenry Co), 5 Feb (AFS, APS); GLPSNA, 5 Feb (JlN, JAS, KML).

Killdeer

MC: **154**, ClintonL., 2 Dec (MEF); **103**, *Wayne*, 28 Dec (RES); 81, UCCA, 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); 80, CarlL-C, 5 Feb (DMK); 8, *Carroll*, 20 Dec (EA, RN). **Others**: *Pulaski* (58), 30 Jan (KAM); *Edwards* (53), 13 Jan (RES); OakBot (24), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); *St. Clair* (19), 25 Feb (TJD); *Lawrence* (15), 9 Jan (CLH); *Massac* (15), 30 Dec (JlN, JAS, THy); JP (14 migrating), 29 Feb (PRC); *Wabash* (10), 5 Jan (CLH); EForkL (9), 3 Jan (CLH); RendL (9), 17 Dec (KAM); TaylorvilleL (Christian Co) (8), 1 Jan (CAT, TLK); *Jasper* (8), 28 Dec (CLH); HL (8), 1 Jan (FRH); *Alexander* (6), 28 Dec (KJM); *Marion* (5), 12 Feb (KAM); Chau (4), 9 Dec (RGB, SNB); Quincy (Adams Co) (4), 6 Jan (PJR, AMR); Spfld (4), 18 Dec (HDB); GreenR (3), 2 Feb> (DHh); LCal (2), 17 Dec (SBB, WJM); QC (2), 18 Dec (TM, BL, m.ob.); Winfield Twp ("Pella Ponds", DuPage Co) (2), 3 Feb (AA); MissR (Whiteside Co), 28 Jan (DTW); HiddenL FP (Du Page Co), 18 Dec & 26-31 Jan (RAM, ALM, JPL & PAM, AFS resp); *Rock Island*, 4 Jan (CDM, JLM); *LaSalle*, 25 Jan (BC); Keithsburg (Mercer Co), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM); COLSP, 19 Feb (JSS); *s. Mclean*, 19 Feb (APC, GHr).

Spotted Sandpiper

ClintonL, 18-22 Dec (SDB, GSL:ph, RK:ph, PAM). Only the 6th winter record for Illinois, all since 1997.

Greater Yellowlegs

Wabash (5), **18 Dec** (CLH).

Least Sandpiper

Wabash (4), **24 Jan** (*CLH:ph., RES); CarlL-C (3), **21 Jan** (*DMK:ph).

Purple Sandpiper

WinthropH, 1 Dec & 12 Jan (AFS & DRD resp), but 2 there 31 Dec (RDH).

Dunlin

7, ClintonL, 2 Dec (MEF).

Wilson's Snipe

MC: 11, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM); 6, *Perry*, 28 Feb (RES); 5, MissR (Adams Co), 8 Dec (AGD); 5, PrRdg-M, 29 Feb (CLH, RES); 3, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 27 Jan – 17 Feb (ASt); 3, L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 14 Jan (ASt). **Others**: CarlL-C (3), 21 Dec (DMK); *St. Clair* (2), 25 Feb> (TJD); UCCA (2), 29 Dec (KJM); ButlerL (Libertyville, Lake Co), 10 Jan (BJS); Fermi, 17 Dec & 22 Jan (JAS, DSa); ClintonL, 18 Dec< (MEF).

American Woodcock

MC: 11, *St. Clair*, 29 Feb (TJD); 8, CarlL-C, 19 Feb (DMK). **Others**: New Columbia (Massac Co) (4 peenting), 10-11 Dec (FKB); St. Charles (Kane Co) (3 displaying), 28 Feb (YJ); *Woodford* (3 peenting), 22 Feb (JM); West Salem (Edwards Co) (3), 1 Feb (RES); *Hamilton* (3), 12 Feb (KAM); Pomona (Jackson Co) (3 displaying), 6 Feb (RSR); *DuPage*, 26 Feb (JAS); Kankakee (Whispering Willows Pk), 17 Feb (JBH).

Black-legged Kittiwake

Wilmette (Gilson Pk, Cook Co) (imm), 6 Dec (JK).

Little Gull. Carlyle Lake, Clinton County. 21 January 2012. Photo by Dan Kassebaum.

Bonaparte's Gull

MC: **10,000**, CarlL-C, 1 Jan (DMK); 164, ClintonL, 2 Dec (MEF); 85, RendL, 17 Dec (KAM); 74, Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery (Mason Co), 23 Dec (RGB, SNB); LCal (3 ad), 22 Jan (WJM); **Others**: Central City (Marion Co) (33), 4 Dec (EWW); *Wabash* (30), 26 Dec (CLH); LShel-M (4), 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); WinthropH (2), 22 Jan (AFS et al.); MissR (Rock Island Co), 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); Gridley Sewage Plant (McLean Co) & El Paso Sewage Lagoons (Woodford Co) (3), 5 Dec (BMy); HL, 26 Jan> (FRH); NewtonL (Jasper Co), 23 Dec (fide JWW); EForkL, 20 Dec (CLH).

LITTLE GULL

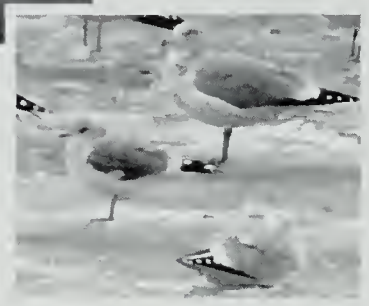
CarlL-C (ad), 16 Jan-7 Feb (*DMK:ph, *TBe:ph., KAM, m.ob.).

Franklin's Gull

L&D 13 (Whiteside Co) (2), 4 Feb (ASt).

Thayer's Gull. Carlyle Lake, Clinton County. 23 December 2011. Photo by Dan Kassebaum.

California Gull. Calumet Park, Cook County. 21 January 2012. Photo by Amar Ayyash.



Mew Gull (farthest left). North Point Marina, Lake County. 16 January 2012. Photo by Paul Sweet.

MEW GULL
WinthropH (2nd), 13-21 Jan (BJS, AS, EG).

Ring-billed Gull

MC: **80,000**, CarlL-C, 29 Jan (DMK); 5,000, HL, 3 Jan (KAM); 2,910, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 2,350, LShel-M, 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); 1,750, ClintonL, 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); 1,059, MissR (Carroll & Whiteside Cos), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); 524, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE). **Others**: RendL (2,640), 17 Dec (KAM); MissR (Rock Island Co) (750), 7 Dec (KJM); HennepinL (700), 29 Dec (DFS); LostMound (605), 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); *LaSalle* (600), 25 Jan (BC); KLMSNA (512), 15 Jan (CD, PD); *Mason* (480), 3 Feb (RGB, SNB); Goose Lake Twp (Grundy Co) (440), 1 Jan (JAS); Chi (403), 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); RockR (Whiteside Co) (247), 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); *Union* (189), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); MissR (Whiteside & Rock Island Cos) (175), 13 Jan (KJM); MissR (Mercer Co) (151), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); NewtonL (slurry pond, Jasper Co) (102), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); WinthropH (100), 24 Feb (EWW); LVerm (97), 1 Jan (SDB, PAM); OakBot (67), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ).

California Gull

WinthropH (ad), 18 Jan (PAM, JWL et al.); Chi (Planetarium) (ad), 25 Dec (JIE, KJM, JRG, m.ob.); Chi (Calumet Pk) (ad), 21 Jan (AAA:ph); L&D 13 (Whiteside Co) (ad), 6 Feb (KBR).

American Herring Gull

MC: 2,000, WinthropH, 22 Jan & 11 Feb (JAS, PAM & CAT resp); 800, *LaSalle*, 25 Jan (BC); 500, CarlL-C, 14-15 Jan (TAM, DMK); 100, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); 30, RendL-F, 17 Dec (DMK); 25, Chau, 1 Dec (RGB, SNB). **Others**: Chi (695), 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); MissR (Rock Island Co) (78), 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); MissR (Whiteside & Rock Island Cos) (50), 13 Jan (KJM); ClintonL (16), 27 Jan (MEF); MissR (Mercer Co) (10), 15 Dec (WAB, m.ob.); Rock R (Whiteside Co) (7), 24 Dec (KJM); MissR (Whiteside Co) (6), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); EForkL (3), 11 Feb (CLH); BraidwoodL (Will Co) (2), 31 Jan (JBH); Ark (2), 27 Dec (KJM); LShel-S, 2 Jan (DMK).

Thayer's Gull

MC: 11 (8 ad, 2nd, 2 1st) & 7 (3 ad, 4rth, 3rd, 2nd, 1st), 26 & 18 Feb resp (AAA et al.); 4 (2 ad, 2 1st), L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 6 Feb (KBR); 4 (ad, 3 unk), Chi, 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); 4 (2 ad,2 1st), MissR (Rock Island Co), 20 Feb (DTW). **Others**: Chi (DiverseyH) (ad & 2nd), 11 Feb (GAW); HeideckeL (Grundy Co) (2 imm), 22 Feb (REF et al.); LCal (1st), 12 Feb (WJM); *Woodford* (ad), 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); MissR (Adams Co), 12 Feb (PJR); CarlL-C (ad), 23 Dec & 27-28 Jan (*DMK:ph, MS).

Iceland Gull

"Kumlien's": **MC**: 4 (ad), WinthropH, 26 Feb (AAA et al.). **Others**: MissR (Rock Island Co) (2; ad & 1st), 20 Feb (DTW); IBSP (Sand Pond), 8 Jan (EG); L&D 13 (Whiteside Co) (ad), 6 Feb (KBR); Chi (DiverseyH) (2 ad), 11 Feb (GAW); L&D 14 (Rock Island Co) (1st), 6 Feb (KBR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

MC: 7 (4 ad, 2 2nd, 3rd) & 4 (2 ad, 1st, 2nd), WinthropH, 26 & 12 Feb (AAA, AFS et al. & JSS resp). **Others**: RockCut (2;1ad,1 3rd), 21 Feb (DTW), but ad there 19 & 26 Dec (LGB, APS); CarlL-C (2 ad), 14 Jan (DMK); CandlewickL (Boone Co) (ad), 23 Dec (DTW); ButlerL (Libertyville, Lake Co) (ad), 18 Dec (NM); FoxR (Batavia, Kane Co) (ad), 26 Dec (DL); CBG, 16 Jan (MJH); L&D 13 (Whiteside Co), 4-6 Feb (ASt, KBR); L&D 14 (Rock Island Co) (2nd), 6 Feb (KBR); Yorkville (Kendall Co) (ad), 21-22 Jan (DJS, SAC); Chi, 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); LCal (ad), 1 Feb (WJM); *LaSalle*, 25 Jan (BC); MissR (Adams Co), 12 Feb (PJR, AMR); TaylorvilleL (Christian Co) (ad), 1 Jan (CAT, TLK); LShel-S (ad), 2 Jan (DMK); HL, 26 Dec< (FRH); ClintonL, 18 Dec (MEF); RendL (ad), 11 Dec-12 Feb (KAM).

Glaucous Gull

MC: 3 (ad, 1st, 3rd), WinthropH, 25 Feb (EWW); 3, MissR (Rock Island Co), 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.). **Others**: Rock R (Whiteside Co) (2; 1st), 24 Dec (KJM); Chi (MonroeH) (2nd), 2 Dec (AR, DFS); Chi (BelmontH) (1st-2nd), 16 Dec (JIE); Chi, 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); LCal (2; ad & imm), 12 Feb (WJM); HeideckeL (Grundy Co) (imm), 22 Feb (REF et al.); Eastport Marina (East Peoria, Tazewell Co), 8 Jan (PF); HL, 17 Dec (FRH); CarlL-C (1st), 11 Dec (*DMK:ph).

Great Black-backed Gull

MC: 5 (4ad, 1 2nd), LCal, 12 Feb (WJM). **Others**: WinthropH 4 (2 ad, 1st, 2nd), 22 Jan & 11 Feb (AFS & BJS, CAT resp); IBSP (Sand Pond) (2nd), 8 Jan (EG).

Rock Pigeon

MC: 742, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 715, *LaSalle*, 18 Dec (BC, DJS); 409, Champaign-Urbana, 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); 150, CarlL-C, 21 Dec (DMK); 100, *Mercer*, 15 Jan (KJM); 80, RamseyL SP (Fayette Co), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); 52, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE). **Others**: *Whiteside & Lee* (474), 24 Dec (AT, ET, m.ob.); *Cook* (300), 18 Dec (WJM, SBB, CDH); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (280), 13 Jan (KJM); *Rock Island* (114), 4 Jan (CDM, JLM, m.ob.); *Carroll & Whiteside* (92), 20 Dec (EA, RN, m.ob.); *se Stephenson & sw Winnebago* (46), 6 Jan (SDB); KankakeePks (32), 7 Dec (JBH); *Henry* (30), 10 Dec (KJM); *Adams* (30), 21 Jan (KJM).

Eurasian Collared-Dove

MC: 60, CarlL-C, 4 Dec (DMK); 42, Cutler (Perry Co), 27 Dec (KJM); 34, *Union*, 29 Dec (SDB, et al.); 30, *Marshall*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); 21, *Carroll*, 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); 16, Bushnell (McDonough Co), 10 Jan (LLH). **Others**: Cordova (Rock Island Co) (14), 22 Dec (KJM, LB); German Valley (Stephenson Co) (11), 21 Dec (SDB); Holcomb (Ogle Co) (9), 30 Dec-29 Feb (DTW); *LaSalle* (5), 5 Feb (JIN, JAS, KML); *Jasper* (5), 23 Dec (fide JWW); Olney (Richland Co) (5), 11 Dec (CLH); *Randolph, Monroe, & St.* Clair (5), 4 Feb (KAM); Seward Twp (Winnebago Co) (4), 6 Jan (SDB); Forreston Twp (Ogle Co) (3), 19 Jan (ASt); *Whiteside & Lee* (3), 24 Dec (KJM, DA, DHh); *Mercer* (2), 15 Dec (WAB); Siblcy (Ford

"Arctic" Great Horned Owl. University of Illinois Arboretum, Urbana, Champaign County. 17 December 2011. Photo by Greg Lambeth.

"Arctic" Great Horned Owl. University of Illinois Arboretum, Urbana, Champaign County. 12 February 2012. Photo by Bob Schifo.

Co) (2), 11 Dec (EWW); RamseyL SP (Fayette Co) (2), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); RendL (2), 17 Dec (KAM); Volo Bog SNA (Lake Co), 9 Dec (BJS); Waterman (DeKalb Co), 26 Feb (NB); Batavia (Kane Co), 17 Dec (EES); *Rock Island*, 4 Jan (KJM, MBr); *w. Kankakee*, 5 Jan (JBH); Aroma Park (Kankakee Co) (2), 19 Feb (JBH); Allin Twp (McLean Co) (2), 15 Jan (APC, GHr); Forrest City (Mason Co), 29 Jan (KAM); Champaign, 25 Feb (CKA); *Greene*, 9 Dec (KAM); *Montgomery*, 26 Jan (KAM); EForkL, 4 Dec (EWW).

Mourning Dove

MC: **600**, CarlL-C, 4 Dec (DMK); 349, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 188, *Pulaski*, 28 Dec (JAS, JIN); 120, *Henry*, 13 Dec (KJM); 63, LShel-S, 2 Jan (DMK); 34, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (TM, JSg, DFh, m.ob.). **Others**: *Alexander* (101), 28 Dec (KJM); *Carroll* (85), 21 Jan (EWW); *Union* (83), 29 Dec (KJM); *St. Clair* (55), 13 Dec (KAM); SouthFarms (52), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); RendL (36), 17 Dec (KAM); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (32), 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); *Whiteside & Lee* (30), 24 Dec (DA, DHh, m.ob.); *Rock Island* (28), 26 Dec (CDM, JLM, m.ob.); *Perry* (24), 27 Dec (KJM).

Barn Owl

DuPage, 30 Jan-29 Feb (JAS, SDB, PAM, m.ob.:ph); CarlL-C (♂), 28 Feb (MSS, MS).

Eastern Screech-Owl

MC: 8, GreenR, 24 Dec (KJM); 8, *Rock Island*, 26 Dec (KJM, CAT, m.ob.); 6, *Ogle*, 18 Dec (DTW); 5, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM); 4, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); Urbana (4), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL). **Others**: KArb (4), 31 Dec (DTW); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (4), 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); QC (4), 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); *Carroll* (3), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); *DnPage* (3), 18 Dec (RAM, ALM, JPL, m.ob.); Palos (Cook Co) (3), 28 Jan (JIN, JAS); *DnPage* (2 sites), 12 Feb (SDB, PAM, JAS); *Mercer* (2), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); RendL (2), 17 Dec (KAM); UCCA (2), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM).

Great Horned Owl

MC: 12, *Lee*, 24 Dec (KJM); 10, QC, 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.); 7, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 4, *Mercer*, 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); 4, UCCA, 29 Dec (KJM). **Others**: Nachusa (6), 18 Dec (EWW); *Ogle* (3), 18 Dec (DTW); *Rock Island* (6), 26 Dec (KJM, CAT); *Putnam* (3), 18 Feb (BC); *LaSalle* (3), 18 Dec (BC); CarlL (3), 14 Jan (KAM); RendL (3), 17 Dec (KAM); Rckfd (pr), 29 Jan (DTW); WinthropH (pr), 4 Dec (EWW); *Carroll* (2), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); White Pines Forest SP (Ogle Co) (pr), 18 Dec (EWW); Fermi (3), 18&27 Jan (DSa); *DnPage* (3), 12 Feb (SDB, PAM, JAS); LTFP (2), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr); ClintonL (2), 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); RamseyL SP (Fayette Co) (2), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); Sam Parr SF&WA (Jasper Co) (2), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Hamilton* (2), 12 Feb (KAM); *Pulaski* (2), 28 Dec (JIN, JAS). **Other forms**: "Arctic" race: SouthFarms, 17 Dec- 9 Feb (RK:ph, GSL:ph, SDB, et al:ph); Spunky Bottoms Pr (Brown County), 19 Dec (MPW:ph).

Barn Owl. Matteson, Cook County. 28 February 2012. Photo by Jackie Bowman.

Snowy Owl

MC: **4**, *Livingston*, *McLean*, and *Woodford* (includes records below), 20 Feb (JAS, PAM); Montrose (2), 2 & 7 Jan (ND et al. & RC et al.); LaSalleL (LaSalle Co) (2), 6 Jan (fide SDB). **Others**: *Boone*: approx. 17-20 Feb (GBBC, *fide* SDB); *McHenry*: 19 Feb – 11 May (Doug Crane, KML, SDB, m.obs.:ph); *Lake*: **11** sightings: ten lakefront detections and one inland (m.obs.:ph); *Ogle*, mid-Jan (*fide* ASt); *Lee*: Dixon 29 Dec (DHh); *De Kalb*, 24 Dec (MEF, ISM: specimen *fide* APC) "bird was found dead"; *Kane*: Hampshire, 1st yr. ♀, injured 30 Nov and released on 23 Jan; *Cook*: **38** sightings: **27** at lakefront and **11** inland; *Henry*: Kewanee Apt, ad ♂, 20 Feb – 3 Mar (Dale Lindstrom, JAS, PAM, MBr, DBJ, APS, m.ob.); *LaSalle*: **4** detections (*fide* BC): 2 Dec, 15 Dec – 22 Jan, 12 Dec – 6 Feb, 12 Dec – 14 Dec (J&CM, BC, Janet Playmire, SDB, PAM, JAS, JIN, m.ob); *Grundy*: **6** reports by m.ob. incl @ GLPSNA, 12 Feb (SDB, PAM, JAS); *Kankakee*: Bourbonnais, 22 Dec (fide JBH), Manteno, 30 Dec (Cecily Langellier); *Warren*: 20 Jan (internet ph); *Woodford*: 2 sightings 15 – 20 Feb (fide BMy); *Livingston*: 3 sightings (*fide* BMy, m.ob.); *Hancock*: Nauvoo, 1-8 Jan (Ron & Audrey Meade:ph), Powellton, 22-29 Dec (E.Bollin); *McDonough*: (ad ♂), 6 Feb (LLH); *Fulton*, 14 Feb (LLH); *Tazewell*: East Peoria, Illinois Central Community College, 25 Feb (internet report), Tremont 8 Feb (Mike Ingram); *Mason*, 19-31 Dec (KBR, MBr, Colin Dobson, Tony Ward, m.ob.) found dead on 31 Dec; *McLean*: **7** sightings (m.obs., fide MEF, BMy, et al.); *Champaign*: Willard Apt, 30 Dec (TAM), Sidney & Homer, 6 Jan (*DGM, GSL, SDB, JAS, PAM, m.ob.:ph), Savoy 30 Dec – 3 Jan, in rehab (*fide* Carrie Nixon), one 1300E, 29 Dec – 9 Jan, one W of 130 at 500N, 5 Jan – 7 Jan (both *fide* GSL:ph); *Adams*: Quincy Apt, 15-17 Jan (KLK *fide* SDB); *Schuyler*: Bluff City, 20- 23 Feb (Mike Madsen); *Macon*: two at Decatur Apt, 20 Dec (MEF, JMe, TAM), Forsyth, 20 Dec – 1 Jan (MBr, Rich Laramore, m.ob); *Moultrie*: sw of Arthur, 2 Jan (PAM, SDB, GSL:ph, RK:ph); *Coles*: Charleston, 14 Jan (RB), Mattoon, 2 Jan – 24 Feb (RB); ***Edwards***: Bonpas Crk Bottms, 11 Dec (John Pohl:ph, RES, CLH); ***Randolph***: Red Bud, 26 Jan – 21 Feb (Susan & Will Harbaugh, KAM, CD, PD, *TR:ph, m.ob.); ***Pulaski***: 2.5 miles W of IL Rte 3, just E of Shawnee Community College, 27 Jan – 5 Feb (KAM:ph, Myra and Frank Bennett). This is the southernmost record ever for this species.; This is a major portion of the record irruption of **133** sightings or detections in **34** counties that were found during the late fall, winter, and early spring. See the article, figures, and appendix in this issue for further details.

Barred Owl

MC: 14, QC, 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.); 9, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 8, ClintonL, 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); 7, *Rock Island*, 4 Jan

Snowy Owl perched on fall pond boardwalk at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, Grundy County. 5 January 2012. Photo by Jim Tezak.

Snowy Owl. Highway 24, McLean County. 14 January 2012. Photo by Ben Murphy.

Snowy Owl in Macon County. 20 December 2011. Photo by Matt Fraker.

Snowy Owl in Tolono, Champaign County. 31 December 2011. Photo by Greg Laubeth.

(KJM, MBr, m.ob.); 6, RendL, 17 Dec (KAM); 5, *Vermilion*, 1 Jan (PAM et al.); 5, CarlL, 14 Jan (KAM); 5, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 4, LostMound, 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); 4, *Carroll*, 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.). **Others**: UCCA (4), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Lee* (3), 24 Dec (KJM, JLM); *Putnam* (3), 18 Feb (BC); Ridott Twp (PecatonicaR; Stephenson Co) (pr), 6 Jan (SDB); LowdMil (pr), 11 Dec (EWW); Fermi (2), 17 Dec (fide DSa); MArb & Winfield Twp (DuPage Co), 12 Feb (SDB, PAM, JAS); Hoover FP (Kendall Co) (2), 10 Jan & 5 Feb (JBo & JIN, JAS, KML resp); *Woodford* (2), 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); *Warren* (2), 28 Feb (LLH); *McDonough* (2), 11 Jan (LLH); LShel-M (2), 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); RamseyL SP (Fayette Co) (2), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); Fremont Twp (Countryside Landfill, Lake Co), 22 Jan (MM); Oakhurst FP (Kane Co), 10 Jan (VL); Burnidge FP (Kane Co), 22 Jan (WL); *Whiteside*, 22 Dec (EA, RN); Saganashkee Sl (Cook Co), 11 Dec (SDB); Beaverville Twp (Iroquois Co), 1 Jan (JBH); Champaign, 28 Feb (RK); SouthFarms (Forestry), 8 Jan (DLT).

Long-eared Owl

MC: 6, LostMound, 16 Dec (EA); 6, Dorr Twp (McHenry Co), 9 Jan-29 Feb (SDB, PAM, DTW, m.ob.); 3, *Woodford*, 1 Dec-26 Feb (MEF, et al.:ph); 3, GreenR, 2 Feb (DHh). **Others**: Fermi (2), 25 Jan (DSa); Kankakee River SP (Will Co) (2) 23 Dec (JAS); Chi, 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); Bartel Grasslands FP (Cook Co), 28 Jan (JIN, JAS); *Rock Island*, 22 Dec (KJM, LB); *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM); Chi (Hyde Pk), 21 Dec (TV); *Kankakee*, 26 Dec (fide JBH); SouthFarms, 3 Dec-13 Feb (GSL, SDB, RK, DLT); KCP, 1 Jan (MJE).

Short-eared Owl with vole. Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, Grundy County. 14 January 2012. Photo by Don Blecha.

Short-eared Owl

MC: 16, CarlL-C, 21 Jan (DMK); 12 & 11, Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co), 11 Dec & 29 Jan (SDB & CAT resp); 10, Ferrin (Clinton Co), 10,21 Dec (DMK); 9&4, GLPSNA, 28 Jan & 12 Feb (JIN, JAS & SDB, PAM, JAS resp); 9, Ark, 28 Feb (RES). **Others**: PRKWA (8), 12 Feb (TJD); RollinsSav (4), 6 Dec & 16-17 Jan (SDB & NM, BJS, PP); Fermi (3), 27 Jan (fide DSa); *Bond* (2), 29 Jan (DMK); PrRdg-M (2), 7 Feb (RES, CLH); Burnidge FP (Kane Co), 22 Jan (WL); Deer Grove East FP (Cook Co), 16 Jan (CSF); Penn Twp (Stark Co), 17 Dec (DS); HennepinL, 7 Jan (BC); Sonora Twp (Hancock Co), 7 Jan (AMR, PR, PJR); Colfax (McLean Co), 23 Dec (TT); Barnhart Pra NP (Champaign Co), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL); Guzy Pothole Wetlands NP (Shelby Co), 1 Jan (CAT, TLK); Seven Hickory Twp (Coles Co), 14 Jan (RB); KLMSNA, 15 Jan (CD, PD); PrRdg-J, 23 Dec & 6 Feb (SDB, PAM & CLH, RES resp).

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Putnam (2), 18 Feb (BC); *Woodford & McLean* (2), 22 Feb (MEF); *Hamilton* (2), 12 Feb (KAM); KArb, 31 Dec (DTW); Kinnikinnick Crk CA (Boone Co), 8-23 Jan (EWW); LowdMil, 17-18 Dec (EWW); Nachusa, 17-18 Dec (EWW); Dixon (Lee Co), 10 Dec-31 Jan (*DHh, m.ob.:ph); GreenR, 24 Dec (KJM); MArb, 12 Feb (SDB, PAM, JAS et al.); Winfield (DuPage Co), 12 Feb (SDB, PAM, JAS); Springbrook Pra FP (DuPage Co), 30 Jan (fide JAS et al.:ph); WaterGlen, 18 Dec (JIN, GAW, EWn); *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM); *Kankakee*, 26 Dec (fide JBH); EvergreenL (McLean Co), 19 Feb (MJW:ph); Normal (McLean Co) (calling), 15 Jan (BMy); ParadiseL (Coles Co), 4 Dec (EWW); KCP, 1 Jan (MJE); Ark, 27 Dec (KJM); RendL, 17 Dec (KAM).

Northern Saw-whet Owl. Kansas Township, Woodford County. 11 January 2012. Photo by Matt Fraker.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD

Sterling (Whiteside Co) (ad ♀), 13-24 Dec (*VMK,*GN, RZ, KJM, *DA, m.ob.). Caught & banded for I.D. purposes.; Chi (Oak Park), 1 Dec – 6 Jan (AG, EG, EDG, *VMK m.ob.:ph). This bird was caught, measured & banded for I.D. purposes.

Rufous Hummingbird. Oak Park, Cook County. 12 December 2011. Photo by Jackie Bowman.

Rufous Hummingbird. Sterling, Whiteside County. 9 December 2011. Photo by Robert Zinanni.

Belted Kingfisher

MC: 9, Danville (Vermilion Co), 1 Jan (BS, JR); 5, *Carroll*, 20 Dec (EA, RN, m.ob.); 4, QC, 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr); 4, *Rock Island*, 4 Jan (CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 3, MissR (Mercer Co), 15 Jan (KJM); 3, ClintonL, 18 Dec (MEF); 3, Middlefork SF&WA (Vermilion Co), 1 Jan (JOS, CCC). **Others**: LostMound (2), 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); Ridott Twp (Stephenson Co (2 locations), 21 Dec (SDB); Chi (No. Channel ChiR) (2), 18 Dec (MD); LCal (2), 15 Jan (WJM); HLCA (2), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM).

Red-headed Woodpecker

MC: 70 & 22, *Union* (different birds), 29 Dec (KJM, JIN, JAS & SDB, PAM resp); 29, HLCA, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 11, QC, 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.); 9, *Rock Island*, 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); 7, Merwin, 17 Dec (MEF); 6, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.). **Others**: Thomson Causeway (Carroll Co) (7), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); OakBot (6), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); *Henry* (5), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); *Mercer & Knox* (5), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (4), 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); *n. Vermilion* (3), 1 Jan (BS, JR, MJE); Vance Twp (Vermilion Co) (3 coming to feeders), throughout Feb (JOS); CarlL-C (3), 21 Dec (DMK); MidSav (2), 6 Jan (JSS).

Red-bellied Woodpecker

MC: 58, *Rock Island*, 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); 55, *Union*, 29 Dec (KJM, JIN, JAS); 54, QC, 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.); 61, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 42, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); 38, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.). **Others**: *Carroll & Whiteside* (37), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); *Jackson* (35), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (22), 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); *Whiteside & Lee* (18), 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); LShel-M (17), 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); MArb (15), 18 Dec (RAM, ALM, JPL); RendL (15), 17 Dec (KAM); *Henry* (14), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); PLNWR (12), 15 Jan (KJM).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

MC: 7(2 ad ♂, 5 unk) & 5, UCCA (different birds), 29 Dec (KJM & SDB, PAM resp); 6, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM). **Others**: *Carroll* (3 incl 1ad ♂,1ad ♀,1imm), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); MeadbrkPk/SouthFarms (3), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); LMurph (3), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); LTFP (2), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr); CarlL-C (2), 26 Dec (DMK); *Perry* (2), 27 Dec (KJM); Marengo Ridge FP (McHenry Co) (1-2), 8-16 Dec (AFS, APS); LostMound, 16 Dec (RN); Rckfd (Anna Page Pk), 5 Feb (JSr); Batavia (Kane Co), 17 Dec (EES); GreenR (ad ♂), 24 Dec (KJM); MArb, 2 & 31 Dec (PAM, AFS & AA resp); Chi, 10 Jan (WJM); QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM); AndalSl (ad ♀), 26 Dec (KJM, CAT); Shuh Shuh Gah Canoe Launch (Mill Brook, Kendall Co), 25 Dec (DJS); Wilmington Dam (Will Co), 21 Jan 13 Feb (JBH); KankakeeR SP (Kankakee Co) (imm), 10 Jan (JBH); *Woodford*, 10 Dec< (MEF); Bushnell (McDonough Co), 27 Jan (LLH); Olney (Richland Co), 7&23 Jan (CLH); RendL-F, 17 Dec (DMK); *White*, 24 Jan (CLH).

Downy Woodpecker

MC: 121, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 50, *Whiteside & Lee*, 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 40, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM); 37, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); 27, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); 27, *Union*, 29 Dec (KJM). **Others**: *Rock Island* (46), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (43), 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); *Carroll & Whiteside* (37), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); LCal (23), 17 Dec (WJM, SBB, CDH); *Mercer & Knox* (22), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); *Henry* (21), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); Merwin (19), 17 Dec (MEF); MArb (10), 18 Dec (RAM, ALM, JPL); PLNWR (10), 15 Jan (KJM).

Hairy Woodpecker

MC: 28, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 27, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 21, *Whiteside & Rock Island*, 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); 18, *Union*, 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); 11, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); 9, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); 9, LMurph, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ). **Others**: *Rock Island* (20), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); *Carroll & Whiteside* (16), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); *Whiteside & Lee* (11), 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); Geneva Twp (Kane Co) (8), 17 Dec (AFS, APS); *Cook* (6), 18 Dec (WJM, SBB, CDH); MArb (5), 18 Dec (RAM, ALM, JPL); ClintonL (5), 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); RendL (5), 17 Dec (KAM); PLNWR (4), 15 Jan (KJM); *Mercer & Knox* (4), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); Merwin (4), 17 Dec (MEF); *Perry* (4), 27 Dec (KJM).

Northern Flicker

MC: 36, *Whiteside & Rock Island*, 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); 36, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 28, *Jasper*, 23 Dec (JWW, SDB et al.); 27, *Jackson*, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); 9, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 4, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.). **Others**: *Union* (19), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Jasper* (16), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Pulaski* (13), 28 Dec (JAS, JIN); ClintonL (9), 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); CarlL-C (8), 12 Feb (DMK); *Carroll* (7), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); Ridott Twp (Stephenson Co) (6), 21 Dec – 9 Feb (SDB); PRKWA (6), 4 Feb (KAM); *Whiteside & Lee* (5), 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); Rckfd (4), 15 Jan (DTW); Marengo Ridge FP (McHenry Co) (3), 8 Dec (AFS, APS).

Pileated Woodpecker

MC: 22 & 13, *Union* (different birds), 29 Dec (KJM, JIN, JAS & SDB, PAM resp); 22, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 10, *Rock Island*, 26 Dec (KJM, CAT, m.ob.); 9, *n. Vermilion*, 1 Jan (SDB, PAM, m.ob.); 7, QC, 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr); 4, PLNWR, 15 Jan (KJM); 4, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE). **Others**: *Jasper* (5), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Carroll* (4), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); RendL (4), 17 Dec (KAM); LowdMil (3), 18 Dec (DTW); *Whiteside* (3), 13 Jan (KJM); Pecatonica (Winnebago Co) (2), 17 Dec (DTW); Cranberry Slough NP (Cook Co) (2), 1 Jan (KKM); Hoover FP (Kendall Co) (2), 27 Dec (LG:ph); *Fulton* (2), 17 Dec (LLH); CarlL-C (2), 19 Feb (DMK); MArb (2), 2 Dec (PAM, AFS); Kinnikinnick Crk CA (Boone Co), 28 Dec (MAM, APS); Spears Wds FP (Cook Co), 18 Dec (SBB, WJM, SF, WSS, m.ob.); Kansas Twp (Woodford Co), 24 Dec (MJA); Moraine View SRA (McLean Co) (2), 31 Dec (APC, GHr, LA); Rock Springs CA (Macon Co), 7 Jan (RL); River Bend FP (Champaign Co), 17 Feb (EJC).

American Kestrel

MC: 22, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 20, *St. Clair & Washington*, 12 Feb (TJD); 19, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 17, *Whiteside & Rock Island*, 22 Dec (EA, RN, m.ob.); 16, *Woodford & McLean*, 8 Jan (MEF); 14, CarlL, 27 Dec (KAM). **Others**: *se Stephenson & sw Winnebago* (13), 6 Jan – 19 Feb (SDB); Ark (11), 27 Dec (JAS, JIN); *s. Mclean* (9), 19 Feb (APC, GHr); *Randolph* (9), 4 Feb (KAM); *Whiteside & Lee* (8), 24 Dec (AT, ET, m.ob.); *Peoria* (8), 24 Jan (TRE); RendL (8), 17 Dec (KAM); LCal (7), 17 Dec (WJM, MLB, SBB, CDH); *Rock Island*

(7), 26 Dec (CDM, JLM, m.ob.); *Carroll & Whiteside* (6), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); *Woodford* (5), 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); SouthFarms (5), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); *Jasper* (5), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); Chi (4), 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); *Hancock* (4), 21 Jan (KJM); *w. Kankakee* (4), 8 Dec (JBH); RamseyL SP (Fayette Co) (4), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); *Alexander* (4), 28 Dec (KJM).

Merlin

Rckfd (Greenwood Cem) (ad ♀), 9 Jan & 6-17 Feb (JL:ph); LostMound (Carroll Co) ("richardsonii"), 16 Dec (DTW, SDB); Zion (Lake Co) (ad), 17 Jan (EWW); Oregon (Ogle Co), 18 Dec (DTW, KKh); St. Charles (James Breen Community Pk, Kane Co) (caught DEJU), 14 Jan (JJD); St. Adalbert's Cem (Niles, Cook Co), 18 Dec – 5 Jan (JWL); (Lincoln Pk) (♀), 9 Dec (AR); Chi (Irving Pk Cem), 18 Dec & 20 Jan (AFS); *Mercer*, 15 Jan (KJM); GLPSNA, 19 Dec (REF et al.); Kankakee (ad; Taiga race), 26 Dec – 13 Jan (JBH:ph); *e. Kankakee*, 16 Feb (JBH); *McDonough*, 27 Jan (LLH); Chau, 1 Dec (RGB, SNB); Normal (McLean Co) (2 & 1), 19 Dec & 14 Jan resp (GHr); Sidney (Champaign Co) (♀), 5 Feb (GAW, CLW, AG, EG); *n. Vermilion* ("richardsonii"), 1 Jan (MPW); PrRdg-J, 29 Feb (CLH); *Wayne*, 1 Jan (RES).

Peregrine Falcon

Genoa Twp (DeKalb Co) (juv eating an ECDO), 2 Dec (DAL:ph). This bird hatched in Jun 2011 from a nest @ Millennium Park, Chicago; Elgin Tower Bldg (Kane Co), 11-27 Feb (BLe, DWr); Chi (2), 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); *Cook* (2), 16 Feb (RAM); LCal (2 ad), 17 Dec & 15 Jan (WJM); Normal (IL. State Univ. Campus, McLean Co), 16 Jan (APC); Quincy (Adams Co), all winter (AGD); Spfld (chasing ROPIs downtown), 29 Dec (fide SDB); Champaign (ad @ annual roost on downtown dorm building ledge), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); ESTL, 8 Feb (KAM); SantaFe, 29 Jan (MS).

Prairie Falcon. Sidney, Champaign County. 31 January 2012. Photo by Bob Schifo.

PRAIRIE FALCON

Sidney (Champaign Co) (often noted perching on hay bales), 31 Jan-12 Feb (BS:ph, GSL, JOS, KAM, MAM et al.).

Monk Parakeet

MC: 30, Burbank (Cook Co), 28 Feb (KKa); 21, LCal, 17 Dec (WJM, MLB, JPk, m.ob.). **Other**: Lincolnwood (Cook Co) (2), 23 Jan (SB); *DuPage* (Prairie Path), 26 Jan (PAM, AFS).

Eastern Phoebe

Union (3), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Alexander* (2), 28 Dec (KJM); HLCA (2), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); Sherwood Youth Camp (Knox Co), 11 Dec (MJB); KinkL, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); CarlL-C, 28 Feb (MSS, MS); EForkL, 29 Jan (CLH); MermetL, 30 Jan (KAM).

Loggerhead Shrike

MC: 3, *Edwards*, 11 Dec (RES, CLH); 3, *Massac*, 30 Dec (JIN, JAS, THy). **Others**: *Clay*, 18 Jan (RES); *Wayne & Richland* (2), all winter (CLH); *Wabash* (2), 12 Dec (CLH, RES); *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, *SBH, MBr, LCM); PrRdg-J, 28 Dec (CLH); CarlL-C, 1,7,16 Jan (*DMK:ph); PRKWA, 12 Feb (TJD); *Wayne*, 6 Jan (RES); Ark, 27 Dec (KJM); Reynoldsville (Union Co), 18 Feb (RSR et al.).

Loggerhead Shrike. Ferrin, Clinton County. 7 January 2012. Photo by Dan Kassebaum.

Northern Shrike

MC: 7, *Winnebago*, 17 Dec (DTW et al.); 3-4, LostMound, 16 Dec (SDB, DTW, m.ob.); 4, Fermi, 17 Dec (DSa et al.). **Others**: RockCut, 27 Dec – 28 Feb (JLA); Garden Pra Sl (Boone Co), 9 Feb (SDB); Pleasant Valley FP (McHenry Co) (♪ ad @ vole cache), 19 Feb (SDB); *Ogle* (2), 18 Dec (DTW); *Rock Island* (2), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); *Mercer* (2), 15 Dec (KJM, *SBH, MBr, *TM, m.ob.); Freeport (Stephenson Co), 5 Jan (ASt); Riley Twp (McHenry Co), 2 Dec & 27 Jan (KML); Moraine Hills SP (McHenry Co) (ad), 3 Jan (RAM); COLSP, 19 Feb (JSS); Lake Villa (Lake Co) (imm), 26-28 Feb (RBs); Spring Bluff FP (Lake Co) (ad), 5 Dec-23 Feb (EWW); IBSP (imm), 9 Dec (EWW); RollinsSav, 4 Dec & 11 Jan (JSS & AFS resp); Ascension Cem (Lake Co), 6 Dec (SDB); Ryerson CA (Lake Co), 2 Feb (MH et al.); Genoa (DeKalb Co), 15-16 Dec (MA, KML); Sycamore Twp (DeKalb Co), 7 Jan (NB); ShabbonaL (DeKalb Co), 8 Feb (DAL); Johnson's Mound FP (Kane Co) (ad), 31 Dec (CLC); Burnidge FP (Kane Co), 2 Dec (GD et al.); MallardL FP (DuPage Co), 27 Feb (JC); Itasca (DuPage Co), 12 Feb (DBJ); GreeneVal, 5 Jan – 28 Feb (MAM, JIN, UWG et al.); Springbrook Pra FP (DuPage Co), 25 Jan – 5 Feb (KFs:ph, MRB, JLS et al.); Deer Grove East FP (Cook Co) (♪♂; also ♪♂ here in Oct.), 3 Feb (CSF); PaulDouglas (♪♂), 4 & 28 Dec (CSF & JB). Singing a lot both days.; Nachusa, 3 Jan & 12 Feb (ASt & KML resp); GreenR, 24 Dec-31 Jan (KJM, DHh); LCal (Eggers Grove FP), 19 Jan (WJM); Hoover FP (Kendall Co), 10 Dec (Larry Granat); GLPSNA, 10 Dec & 11 Jan (SJH & JWL, JS); Erienna (Grundy Co) (imm), 28 Feb (AFS, APS); Dresden Dam Rd (Grundy Co), 1 Jan & 26 Feb (JAS & REF, UWG resp); BraidwoodL, 14 Jan (JBH); Palestine Twp (Woodford Co), 24 Jan (THr); Kansas Twp (Woodford Co), 21 Dec-18 Feb (MJA:ph); Allerton Pk (Piatt Co), 15 Jan (SR); Heron CP (Vermilion Co), 31 Dec (SDB); Jim Edgar Panther Creek SF&WA (Cass Co), 10 Jan (KBR); ***Richland & Wayne***, 3-16 Dec (*CLH).

Adult female Merlin. Greenwood Cemetery, Rockford, Winnebago County. 10 January 2012. Photo by John Longhenry.

White-eyed Vireo

CarlL-C, **26 Dec** (DMK).

Blue Jay

MC: 138, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM); 130, *Rock Island*, 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); 121, *Carroll & Whiteside*, 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); 113, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); 87 & 85, *Union* (different birds), 29 Dec (KJM & SDB, PAM resp); 48, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.). **Others**: *Whiteside & Lee* (111), 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); *Pulaski* (83), 28 Dec (JAS, JIN); QC (79), 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (69), 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); *Jackson* (55), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); *Henry* (42), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); *Mercer & Knox* (42), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); LShel-M (41), 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); *Perry & Randolph* (37), 27 Dec (KJM); Lost Nation (Ogle Co) (33), 18

Dec (EWW); *se Stephenson & sw Winnebago* (32), 19 Feb (SDB); CarlL-C (30), 5 Feb (DMK); *Jasper* (26), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); RendL-F (26), 17 Dec (DMK, KAM); VandaliaL (Fayette Co) (20), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK).

American Crow

MC: 238,000, Vermilion, 1 Jan (MJE, VB, SDB m.ob.); 1,200, JP, winter (PRC); 1,082, MeadbrkPk/SouthFarms, 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); 884, *Pulaski*, 28 Dec (JAS, JIN); 803, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 550, Kankakee, 7 Dec (JBH); 400, *Madison*, 13 Dec (KAM); 311, LShel-M, 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); 250, Aurora (Kane Co), 3 Jan (SW); 150, *Hancock*, 21 Jan (KJM). **Others**: *Whiteside & Lee* (450), 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); *Adams* (250), 21 Jan (KJM); *Jackson* (180), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); RendL-F (159), 17 Dec (DMK); Chann (150), 28 Jan (JAS); VandaliaL (Fayette Co) (150), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); *Carroll & Whiteside* (147), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); *Union* (144), 29 Dec (KJM); QC (137), 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); IBSP (135), 26 Jan (EWW); Beaverville Twp (Iroquois Co) (122), 1 Jan (JBH); *Putnam* (115), 7 Jan (BC); *Mercer* (114), 15 Dec (TM, JSg, DFh, m.ob.); *Jasper* (113), 23 Dec (JWW, SDB et al.); *Rock Island* (101), 26 Dec (CDM, JLM, m.ob.); ESTL (100), 9 Dec (KAM); CarlL-C (90), 31 Dec (DMK); *Pope* (85), 30 Jan (KAM); ShabbonaL (DeKalb Co) (60), 9 Feb (AFS); *Perry & Randolph* (60), 27 Dec (KJM); *Jasper* (53), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); *McHenry* (50), 10 Dec (RAM); *Woodford* (50), 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); ClintonL (47), 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); LShel-S (47), 2 Jan (DMK); Stephen A. Forbes SP (Marion Co) (46), 12 Feb (KAM); *se Stephenson & sw Winnebago* (43), 19 Feb (SDB); *Henry* (30), 10 Dec (KJM); Chi (27), 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.).

Fish Crow

UCCA (3), 29 Dec (*SDB, PAM).

Horned Lark

MC: 200, CarlL-C, 11 Feb (DMK); 135, *Kane*, 14 Jan (JAS); 125, Rockton Twp (Winnebago Co), 21 Jan (JL); 125, Cordova (Rock Island Co), 22 Jan (EWW); 63, LShel-S, 2 Jan (DMK); 60, VandaliaL (Fayette Co), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); 32, *Mercer*, 15 Jan (KJM). **Others**: Thomson (Carroll Co) (90), 21 Jan (EWW); *Whiteside & Lee* (77), 24 Dec (JLM, m.ob.); *LaSalle* (60), 29 Jan (KAM); *Alexander* (39), 28 Dec (KJM); *se Stephenson & sw Winnebago* (37), 31 Jan (SDB); *Rock Island* (29), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.).

Tree Swallow

EForkL, 4 Dec (CLH).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

KankakeePks (Metro sewer), 12-24 Dec (DFS, JBH:ph).

Barn Swallow

RendL, 17 Dec (KAM).

Carolina Chickadee

MC: 97, *Union*, 29 Dec (KJM, JIN, JAS); 93, Vermilion, 1 Jan (SDB, PAM m.ob.); 83, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM); 56, *Jackson*, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ). **Others**: RendL-F (41), 17 Dec (DMK); *Jasper* (40), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Perry & Randolph* (33), 27 Dec (KJM); CarlL-C (20), 12&19 Feb (DMK).

Black-capped Chickadee

MC: 361, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 215, *Rock Island*, 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); 122, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); 106, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); 30, VandaliaL (Fayette Co), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK). **Others**: *Whiteside and Rock Island* (110), 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); *Carroll & Whiteside* (83), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); Lost Nation (Ogle Co) (68), 18 Dec (EWW); *Whiteside & Lee* (65), 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); Thomson Causeway (Carroll Co) (48), 22 Jan (EWW); *LaSalle* (41), 18 Dec (BC, DJS); *Mercer & Knox* (41), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); *Henry* (40), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); *Bureau* (39), 15 Dec (BC, TW); Merwin (28), 17 Dec (MEF); ClintonL (28), 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); LShel-S (24), 2 Jan (DMK).

Tufted Titmouse

MC: 88, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM); 83, *Union*, 29 Dec (KJM, JIN, JAS); 55, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); 54, Vermilion, 1 Jan (SDB, PAM m.ob.); 46, *Rock Island*, 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); 32, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); 26, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.). **Others**: *Jackson* (68), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); LShel-M (24), 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); RendL-F (21), 17 Dec (DMK, KAM); CarlL (19), 27 Dec (KAM); *Carroll & Whiteside* (18), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); *Jasper* (15), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Mercer & Knox* (8), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); Lost Nation (Ogle Co) (6), 18 Dec (EWW); PLNWR (6), 15 Jan (KJM); *Whiteside* (4), 13 Jan (KJM); *Henry* (4), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); Marengo Ridge FP (McHenry Co) (3), 13 Dec (KML); Ridott Twp (PecatoniaR, Stephenson Co) (2), 31 Jan (SDB); Seward Bluffs FP (Winnebago Co) (2), 19 Feb (SDB); Oak Springs Canoe Launch (Libertyville, Lake Co), 11 Jan – 1 Feb (BSr, NM, JIE, TA); Hoover FP (Kendall Co), 10 Jan (JBo); McKinley Wds FP (Will Co), 10 Jan (AFS); Cranberry Slough NP (Cook Co), 1 Jan (KKM); Palos (Little Red Schoolhouse NC, Cook Co), 30 Jan (LP).

House Wren. Carlyle Lake, Clinton County. 20 February 2012. Photo by Dan Kassebaum.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

MC: 5, MArb, 31 Dec (AA); 4, Rckfd (Greenwood Cem), 11 Dec (JL); 4, GreenR, 2 Feb (DHh). **Others**: Marengo Ridge FP (McHenry Co) (3), 8 Dec (AFS, APS); Van Patten Wds FP (Lake Co) (3), 5 Feb (JSS); Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co) (3), 5 Feb (JSS, BJS); Swallow Cliff FP (Cook Co) (3), 6 Feb (AFS); KArb (6), 23 Feb (DTW, BCW); Chi (Irving Pk Cem) (2), 18 Dec (AFS); Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co) (2), 11 Dec (SDB); *Rock Island* (2), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); RendL-F, 17 Dec (DMK).

White-breasted Nuthatch

MC: 109, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 103, *Rock Island*, 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); 59, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); 34, *Union*, 29 Dec (KJM, JIN, JAS); 28, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM). **Others**: *Carroll & Whiteside* (67), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (65), 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); *Whiteside & Lee* (34), 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); *Mercer* (25), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); *Henry* (25), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); *Mercer & Knox* (25), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); MArb (21), 18 Dec (RAM, ALM, JPL); Merwin (17), 17 Dec (MEF); *Jackson* (15), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); HennepinL (14), 7 Jan (BC).

Brown Creeper

MC: 28, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 20, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 18, *Carroll & Whiteside*, 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); 14 & 13, UCCA (different birds), 29 Dec (KJM & SDB, PAM resp); 9, PLNWR, 15 Jan (KJM); 6, *Mercer*, 3 Jan (KJM, MBr). **Others**: LMurph (13), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); LowdMil (12), 18 Dec (DTW, BCW, KKh); *Rock Island* (11), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob); Batavia (Kane Co) (10), 17 Dec (EES); LostMound (8), 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); COLSP (6), 8 Jan (JSS); MiddleforkR areas (Vermilion Co) (6), 1 Jan (MML); *Jasper* (6), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); Ark (5), 27 Dec (KJM); Merwin (4), 17 Dec (MEF); CarlL-C (4), 12 Feb (DMK); RendL-F (4), 17 Dec (KAM, DMK); COLSP (3), 29 Jan (BJS); Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co) (3), 12 Jan (EWW).

House Wren

Lockport Pra NP (Will Co), 8 Jan (JAS:ph); CarlL-C, 20 Feb (*DMK:ph); *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM); *Massac*, 30 Dec (JAS, JIN, THy).

Winter Wren

MC: 22, HLCA, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 8 & 7, UCCA (different birds), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM & KJM resp); 5, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 3, AndalSI, 26 Dec (KJM, CAT). **Others**: *Massac* (4), 30 Dec (JIN, JAS, THy); Ark (3), 27 Dec (KJM); RendL-J (2), 17 Dec,25 Jan (KAM); LMurph (2), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); Geneva Twp (Kane Co), 17 Dec (AFS, APS); Batavia (Kane Co), 17 Dec (EES); MArb, 2 Dec (PAM, AFS); Glenview (The Grove, Cook Co), 28 Jan (ABA); *Rock Island*, 22 Dec (KJM, LB); KCP, 1 Jan (GSL); *Kankakee*, 26 Dec (fide JBH); Middlefork SF&WA (Vermilion Co), 1 Jan (GSL).

Sedge Wren

PrRdg-J, 23 Dec (RES, CLH).

Marsh Wren

Hidden Lake FP (DuPage Co) (2), 7-15 Dec, w/one present 18 Dec thru early Jan (PAM et al.); HennepinL, 8 Dec (DFS); NewtonL, 23 Dec (MPW, PW); UCCA (5), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Alexander*, 28 Dec (*KJM). As with the rails, this species annually winters in a small cattail marsh in southern Illinois, and should be looked for in all parts of Illinois, including far northern counties, especially in larger cattail marshes where there are likely many more individuals of this species wintering.

Carolina Wren

MC: 74, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM); 52 & 52, *Union* (different birds), 29 Dec (KJM & SDB, PAM resp); 9, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 7, *Carroll*, 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); 3, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE). **Others**: *Perry & Randolph* (26), 27 Dec (KJM); *Jackson* (25), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); *Pulaski* (22), 28 Dec (JAS, JIN); RendL-F (17), 17 Dec (DMK, KAM); *Jasper* (11), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); CarlL-C (8), 4 Feb (DMK); KArb (3), 31 Dec (DTW, BCW); *Rock Island* (3), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); Oregon (Ogle Co) (2), 18 Dec (DTW, BCW); Willow Springs (Cook Co) (2), 16 Dec (CBT); HennepinL (2), 18 Feb (BC); Freeport (Stephenson Co), 21 Jan (EWW); Judson Univ (Elgin, Kane Co) (♪♂), 15 Jan (EES); *Mercer*, 15 Jan (KJM); KankakeePks, 7 Jan (JBH); Kankakee, 20 Jan (JBH); *McDonough*, 11 Jan (LLH).

Golden-crowned Kinglet

MC: 44, *Union*, 29 Dec (KJM, JAS, JIN); 36, LMurph, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); 7, LowdMil, 18 Dec (DTW); 7, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 7, GreenR, 24 Dec (KJM). **Others**: *Alexander* (23), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); RendL-F (22), 17 Dec (DMK, KAM); Ark (14), 27 Dec (KJM); ClintonL (7), 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); Thomson Causeway (Carroll Co) (6), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); CarlL-C (6), 22 Jan (DMK); LostMound (5), 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); Spfld (5), 18 Dec (HDB); *Rock Island* (4), 26 Dec (KJM, CAT); VandaliaL (Fayette Co) (4), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); Sam Parr SF&WA (Jasper Co) (4), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); Van Patten Wds FP (Lake Co) (3), 21 Jan (BJS).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

MC: 18, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 9, UCCA, 29 Dec (KJM); 4, LMurph, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ). **Others**: RendL-F (3), 17 Dec (DMK); LowdMil (2), 18 Dec (DTW, BCW, KKh); CarlL-C (2), 24 Dec,7 Jan (DMK); Ark (2), 27 Dec (KJM); Lost Nation (Ogle Co), 18 Dec (*EWW:ph); GreenR, 24 Dec (*KJM); QC, 18 Dec (*KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM); StarvedRock, 8 Dec (DFS); *LaSalle*, 18 Dec (BC, DJS); LTFP, 4 Jan (*KJM, MBr); Chann, 25 Jan (CDH); BraidwoodL, 14 Jan (JBH); Kankakee (sewage plant), 12 Dec (JBH); ClintonL, 18 Dec (SDB, GSL:ph, RK:ph); VandaliaL (Fayette Co), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); *Jasper*, 23 Dec (fide JWW); DolanL (Hamilton Co), 31 Dec (CLH).

Eastern Bluebird

MC: 67, OakBot, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); 48, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM); 23, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); 16, GreenR, 24 Dec (KJM); 13, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 11, *McDonough & Fulton*, 17 Dec (LLH). **Others**: RendL (46), 17 Dec (KAM); *Union* (43), 29 Dec (KJM); *Perry* (20), 27 Dec (KJM); LostMound (13), 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); COLSP (12), 8 Jan (JSS); *Carroll* (11), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); MArb (11), 18 Dec (RAM, ALM, JPL); *McHenry* (8), 10 Dec (RAM); Cranberry Slough NP (Cook Co) (8), 1 Jan (KKM); Pioneer Wds FP (Cook Co) (8), 18 Dec (WJM, SBB, CDH); *Rock Island* (8), 4 Jan (RRB, JSg, HA, m.ob.); CarlL-C (8), 25-26 Feb (DMK); Kingdom (Lee Co) (6), 18 Dec (EWW); VandaliaL (Fayette Co) (6), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); Rckfd (5), 24 Jan (DTW); Ft. Sheridan FP (Lake Co) (5), 4 Dec (BJS); ClintonL (5), 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

Along Bischoff Rd, near HL, Nameoki Twp (Madison Co) (♀), 12 Dec-29 Feb (MSS, FRH:ph, *KAM:ph., m.ob.:ph).

Hermit Thrush

MC: 14, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM); 13, RendL-F, 17 Dec (DMK); 10, Ark, 27 Dec (KJM); 3, Kinnikinnick Crk CA (Boone Co) (MAM, APS); 3, GreenR, 24 Dec (KJM); 3, *Mercer*, 3 Jan (KJM, MBr). **Others**: UCCA (7), 29 Dec (KJM); Sam Parr SF&WA (Jasper Co) (2), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); CarlL-C (2), 12 Feb (*DMK, ph.); LMurph (2), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); KArb, 21 Jan (EWW); Batavia (Kane Co), 17 Dec (EES); MArb, 2 Dec & 11 Feb (PAM et al.); Chi (Mark Twain Pk), 21 Jan (PAD); Chi (Northtown; yard & roosting @ night in/near garage), 16 Dec – 20 Jan (KK); QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM); *Rock Island*, 22 Dec (KJM, LB); AndalSl, 26 Dec (KJM, CAT); *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); Bloomington (McLean Co), 13 Jan (MEF); SouthFarms, 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); KSRA, 1 Jan (PAM); Bloomington (Ewing Pk, McLean Co), 8 Jan (RL).

Female Mountain Bluebird. Near Horseshoe Lake State Park, Madison County. 14 December 2011. Photo by Kyle Hawley

American Robin

MC: 1,272, Ark, 27 Dec (KJM); 250, *Richland*, 14 Jan (CLH); 55, IBSP, 2 Feb (EWW); 50, Illini SP (LaSalle Co), 15 Jan (BC); 48, Chi (Grant Pk), 28 Dec (DFS); 30, *Fulton*, 17 Feb (LLH). **Others**: CarlL-C (200), 20 Feb (DMK); VandaliaL (Fayette Co) (80), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); RendL-F (71), 17 Dec (DMK); Oakhurst FP (Kane Co) (50), 10 Jan (VL); CBG (40), 15 Dec (AFS); MidSav (35), 6 Jan (JSS); *Jasper* (30), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); *St. Clair* (30), 9 Feb (KAM); KCP (22), 1 Jan (GSL); JP (16 migrants), 29 Feb (PRC).

Northern Mockingbird. Binny's Liquor Store, Lincoln Park, Chicago, Cook County. 6 February 2012. Photo by Jackie Bowman.

Gray Catbird

Aurora (Kane Co), 17 Dec (AA et al.); Willow Springs (Cook Co), 23 Dec (CBT); Kankakee (Gar Crk), 13 Dec (JBH:ph); Massac (2), 30 Dec (fide RSR).

Northern Mockingbird

MC: 5 & 5, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM & SDB, PAM resp); 4, *Jackson*, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ). **Others**: Ark (3), 27 Dec (JAS, JIN); *Pulaski* (3), 28 Dec (JIN, JAS); Matthiessen SP (LaSalle Co) (2), 22 Dec (AFS, APS); Palestine Twp (Woodford Co) (2), 2 Feb (BMy, LA); VandaliaL (Fayette Co) (2), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); CarlL-C (2), 14 Jan (DMK); *Massac* (2), 30 Dec (JIN, JAS, THy); LostMound, 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); Batavia (Kane Co), 26 Dec – 14c Jan (JF, KF); Chi (Lincoln Pk), 1 Dec – 13 Feb (PLC m.ob.:ph); *Mercer*, 3 Jan (WMZ, RAS); Goose Lake Twp (Grundy Co), 19-22 Dec & 11 Jan(REF, AFS et al. & JWL, JS resp); Matthiessen SP (LaSalle Co), 5 Feb (BC); SouthFarms, 8 Jan (GSL:ph).

Brown Thrasher

MC: 6, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM); 3, UCCA, 29 Dec (KJM). **Others**: *Jackson* (2), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); *Kankakee*, 26 Dec (fide JBH); *Adams*, 17 Dec (AMR); *Richland*, 3 Dec (CLH); CarlL-F, 22 Jan (DMK); RendL-F, 17 Dec (DMK); MermetL, 30 Jan (KAM).

European Starling

MC: 18,939, *Jasper*, 23 Dec (JWW, SDB et al.); 6,180, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); 4,200, CarlL-C, 22 Jan (DMK); 3,756, *Jasper*, 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); 2,000, *Adams*, 21 Jan (KJM); 1,787, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 1,640, *Whiteside & Lee*, 24 Dec (AT, ET, m.ob.); 1,218, *Perry and Randolph*, 27 Dec (KJM, JIN, JAS). **Others**: *Rock Island* (1,406), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); Tinley Park (Cook Co) (1,000), 3 Feb (EWW); *LaSalle* (943), 18 Dec (BC, DJS); Strawn (Livingston Co) (900), 11 Dec (EWW); *Alexander* (799), 28 Dec (KJM); 715, *Carroll & Whiteside*, 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); Kingdom (Lee Co) (685), 18 Dec (EWW); *se Stephenson & sw Winnebago* (604), 9 Feb (SDB); *Hancock* (550), 21 Jan (KJM); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (494), 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); Champaign-Urbana (487), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); No. Aurora (Kane Co) (450), 11 Dec (EWW); *Mercer* (441), 15 Dec (CDM, JLM, m.ob.); LShel-M (440), 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); CBG (400), 15 Dec (AFS); VandaliaL (Fayette Co) (400), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); *Henry* (310), 3 Jan

Ovenbird. Soldier Field Parking Garage, Chicago, Cook County. 9 December 2011. Photo by Josh Engel.

American Pipit. Santa Fe Bottoms, Santa Fe Township, Clinton County. 12 February 2012. Photo by Dan Kassebaum.

(KJM, MBr); Chi (178), 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.); *Jackson* (142), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); *Knox* (120), 10 Dec (KJM); KankakeePks (Metro sewer) (110), 7 Dec (JBH).

American Pipit

MC: 96, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (VMK, et al.); 80, *Richland*, 30 Jan (CLH); 10, *Wayne & Richland*, 18 Feb (CLH); 6 & 1, UCCA (different birds), 29 Dec (KJM & PAM resp). **Others**: *Wabash* (5), 5 Jan (CLH); LShel-M (4), 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); Keithsburg (Mercer Co) (2), 15 Jan (KJM); CarlL (2), 27 Dec (KAM); Chann (2), 29 Jan (AA); Cherry Valley Twp (Winnebago Co), 31 Dec (*KML); ClintonL, 18 Dec< (MEF); *Jasper*, 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); SantaFe, 12 Feb (*DMK:ph).

Cedar Waxwing

MC: 151, *Carroll*, 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); 150, VandaliaL (Fayette Co), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); 147, Geneva Twp (Kane Co) (♀), 17 Dec (AFS, APS); 115, LMurph, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); 49, *Rock Island*, 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); 30, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.). **Others**: RendL-F (85), 17 Dec (DMK); *Johnson* (80), 30 Jan (KAM); Kinnikinnick Crk CA (Boone Co) (75), 8 Dec (AFS, APS); CarlL-C (40), 8 Jan (DMK); *Lee* (39), 24 Dec (KJM, JLM); *Whiteside* (33), 22 Dec (EA, RN); KankakeeR SP (Kankakee Co) (32), 21 Jan (JBH); EForkL (30), 8 Jan (CLH); MArb (29), 18 Dec (RAM, ALM, JPL); IBSP (28), 2 Feb> (EWW); Kankakee (Beckman Pk) (28), 17 Feb (JBH); CBG (25), 15 Dec (AFS); PRKWA (24), 24 Dec (TJD); Spring Valley NC (Cook Co) (23), 17 Feb (ABA); Batavia (Kane Co) (17), 17 Dec (EES); *Jasper* (16), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); Zion (Lake Co) (13), 10 Dec (EWW).

Lapland Longspur. McLean County. Note long hind claw on raised foot. 12 January 2012. Photo by Ben Murphy.

Orange-crowned Warbler. Carlyle Lake, Fayette County. 7 January 2012.

Orange-crowned Warbler. Bond County, 19 February 2012.

Photos by Dan Kassebaum.

Lapland Longspur

MC: 1,100, *Winnebago*, 13 Jan (DTW); 800, CarlL-C, 11 Feb (DMK); 500, *Richland*, 14 Feb (CLH); 400, *Henry*, 10 Dec (KJM); 100, *Knox*, 10 Dec (KJM). **Others**: *Wayne & Richland* (400), 14 Jan (CLH); *Crawford & Lawrence* (300), 7 Jan (CLH); Riley Twp (McHenry Co) (250), 6 Jan (KML); *LaSalle* (250), 1 Jan (BC, DJS, TW); VandaliaL (Fayette Co) (200), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); *Whiteside & Lee* (130), 22 Jan (EWW); Beaverville Twp (Iroquois Co) (110), 1 Jan (JBH); *se Stephenson & sw Winnebago* (91), 6 Jan (SDB); Victor Twp (DeKalb Co) (80), 14 Jan (DJS); Goose Lake Twp (Grundy Co) (80), 1 Jan (JAS); *Jasper* (73), 23 Dec (fide JWW); *Livingston* (70), 29 Jan (KAM); LShel-S (70), 2 Jan (DMK); *Alexander* (70), 28 Dec (KJM); Thomson (Carroll Co) (60), 21 Jan (EWW); Aux Sable Twp (Kendall Co) (60), 1 Jan (DFS).

Snow Bunting

MC: 105, Thomson (Carroll Co), 21 Jan (EWW); 100, Brookfield Twp (LaSalle Co), 21 Jan (REF et al.); 12, Union (McHenry Co), 29 Jan (ADF); 8, *LaSalle*, 29 Jan (KAM). **Others**: Fulton (Whiteside Co) (5), 13 Jan (KJM); *Rock Island* (3), 22 Dec (KJM, LB); IBSP (2), 1 Jan (BJS, JSS); Victor Twp (DeKalb Co) (80), 14 Jan (DJS); *Whiteside & Lee* (2), 24 Dec (KJM, DA, DHh); *e. Kankakee* (12), 22 Jan (JBH); *Knox* (2), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr).

Ovenbird

Chi (Soldier Field underground parking garage), 9 Dec (JMB, JDW, JIE:ph).

Orange-crowned Warbler

SouthFarms (**2**), 17 Dec-11 Jan (but **3** there, **8 Jan**; eating berries) (GSL:ph, SDB, RK et al.); Hanover Twp (Jo Daviess Co), 16 Dec (DW); Des Plaines CA (Will Co), 4 Feb (DFS); Spfld, 18 Dec (HDB); CarlL-F, **7 Jan** (DMK:ph); CarlL-B, **29 Jan-19 Feb** (MS, DMK:ph); BeallWds, **25 Feb** (RES, CLH).

Common Yellowthroat

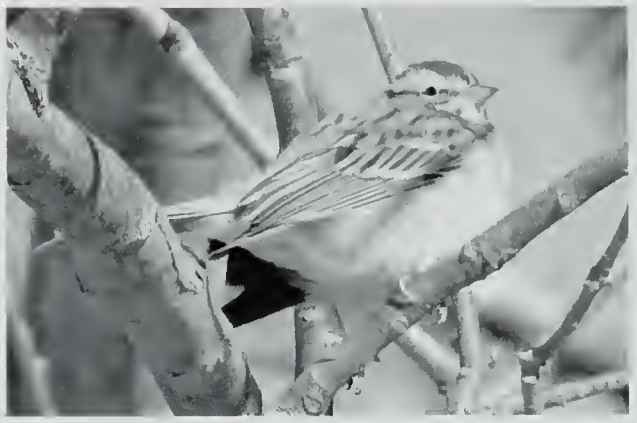
UCCA, 29 Dec (SDB, PAM).

Cape May Warbler
Baldwin Beach, Quiver Twp (Mason Co) (in pine stand along a road), 23 Dec (CDn:ph, TWd).

Black-throated Blue Warbler
Chi (♂), **27 Dec-10 Jan** (DBJ, WJM, m.ob.:ph).

Pine Warbler
ClintonL, 18 Dec (SDB, GSL:ph, RK:ph); Camp Joy (Clinton Co), **2-12 Feb** (CPA, MSS, MS, *DMK:ph); RendL-F, 11&17 Dec (KAM, DMK); DolanL (Hamilton Co), 31 Dec (RES, CLH); LMurph, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); CONWR, **30 Jan** (KAM).

Black-throated Blue Warbler. Millennium Park, Chicago, Cook County. 30 December 2011. Photo by Mark Bowman.



Chipping Sparrow. Bloomington, McLean County. 21 January 2012. Photo by Ben Murphy.

Pine Warbler. Carlyle Lake, Clinton County. 12 February 2012. Photo by Dan Kassebaum.

Yellow-rumped Warbler
MC: 39, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 23, UCCA, 29 Dec (KJM); 16, CarlL-C, 11 Feb (*DMK:ph); 10 & 8, MArb, 2 & 31 Dec (PAM, AFS & AA resp); 8, Blackhawk Springs FP (Winnebago Co), 26 Feb (JLA); 7, ClintonL, 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK). **Others**: LMurph (12), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); Ferne Clyffe SP (Johnson Co) (12), 30 Jan (KAM); Ark (8), 27 Dec (KJM); LostMound (6), 16 Dec (EA, SDB, DTW); Marengo Ridge FP (McHenry Co) (5), 8 Dec (AFS, APS); *Mercer* (5), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM); Spring Crk FP (Cook Co) (4), 19 Dec (ABA); QC (4), 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); *Rock Island* (4), 22 Dec (KJM, LB); LTFP (4), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr); SouthFarms (4), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); Kinnikinnick Crk CA (Boone Co) (3), 28 Dec (MAM, APS); Mundelein Seminary (Lake Co) (3), 11 Feb (SDB); *Carroll* (3), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); MiddleforkR areas (Vermilion Co) (3), 1 Jan (MML); RendL-F (3), 11 Dec (KAM); KArb (2), 14 Jan (DTW); Chi (No. Channel ChiR) (2), 18 Dec (MD); KankakeeR SP (Kankakee Co) (2), 10 Jan (JBH); *Woodford* (2), 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); KCP (2), 8 Jan (BS:ph); Lost Nation (Ogle Co), 18 Dec (EWW); Nachusa, 18 Dec (EWW); *Putnam*, 25 Feb (BC).

Spotted Towhee
Peoria (Peoria Co), 5 Jan – 25 Feb (SD).

Eastern Towhee
MC: 9, *Union*, 29 Dec (KJM); 7, *Pulaski*, 28 Dec (JAS, JIN). **Others**: *Alexander* (4), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); Fermi (♀), 2 Feb (DSa); *Fulton* (♂), 8 Jan (LLH).

Cape May Warbler. Baldwin Beach, Mason County. 23 December 2011. Photo by Colin Dobson.

American Tree Sparrow
MC: 465, QC, 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.); 232, *Whiteside & Lee*, 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 159, ClintonL, 2 Dec (MEF); 99, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); 60, CarlL-C, 21 Jan (DMK); 25, *Madison*, 1 Jan (KAM). **Others**: *Rock Island* (190), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); LCal (172), 17 Dec (WJM, SBB, CDH, JPk); *Carroll & Whiteside* (164), 20 Dec (EA, RN, m.ob.); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (160), 22 Dec (EA, RN, m.ob.); Nachusa (108), 18 Dec (EWW); Volo Bog (Lake Co) (95), 17 Dec (EWW); Independence Grove FP (Lake Co) (87), 15 Jan (NM); *Mercer* (86), 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); HennepinL (75), 18 Feb (BC); Songbird Sl FP (Cook Co) (58), 19 Jan (ABA); UCCA (16), 29 Dec (KJM); *Alexander* (4 & 4), 28 Dec (KJM & SDB, PAM resp). **Other**: Blackberry Twp (Kane Co) (white-headed, leucistic bird), 24 Jan (MMr, RM:ph).

Chipping Sparrow
MC: **17**, *Union*, 29 Dec (VMK et al.); **6**, RamseyL SP (Fayette Co), **15 Jan** (TAM, DMK). **Others**: Weaver Pk, Campaign (2), **8 Jan** (GSL); CarlL-C (2), **27 Dec - 12 Feb** (*TAM, *DMK:ph.); Bloomington (McLean Co), 21 Jan (BMy:ph, LA); Meredosia (Morgan Co) (@ feeder), 17 Dec (MML); BeallWds, **5-24 Jan** (*CLH:ph).

Field Sparrow
MC: 60, CarlL-C, 22 Jan (DMK); 20, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM); 18 & 18, *Union* (different birds), 29 Dec (KJM & SDB, PAM resp); 4, Weaver Pk, Champaign, 8 Jan (GSL); **Others**: MRB (16), 16 Dec (CD, PD); *Jasper* (13), 23 Dec (fide JWW); *Perry* (10), 27 Dec (KJM); *Pulaski* (10), 28 Dec (JAS, JIN); LostMound, 16 Dec (RN); COLSP, 29 Jan (BJS); Volo Bog SNA (Lake Co), 16 Jan (BJS); St. Charles (James Breen Community Pk, Kane Co), 14 Jan (JJD); QC, 18 Dec (*BLB, CB, MBr); Des Plaines CA (Will Co), 4 Feb (DFS); BraidwoodL (Will Co), 7 Feb (JBH); Naperville (Will Co) (@ feeder), 19 Feb (MT).

Vesper Sparrow
CarlL-C, 15-29 Jan (MS).

Savannah Sparrow
MC: 20, *Wayne & Richland*, 14 Jan (CLH); 19, *Wabash, Edwards, & Richland*, 5 Jan (CLH); 14, Spfld, 18 Dec (HDB); 14, *Jasper*, 23 Dec (JWW, SDB et al.); 10, RamseyL SP (Fayette Co), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); 10, UCCA, 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); 9, ClintonL, 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK). **Others**: Weaver Pk, Champaign (5), 8 Jan (GSL); HL (4), 3 Feb (EWW); Ark (4), 27 Dec (KJM); KinkL (4), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); CarlL (3), 27 Dec (KAM); *Alexander* (3), 28 Dec (KJM); HLCA (3), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); RendL (2), 17 Dec (KAM); *Pope* (2), 30 Jan (KAM); Kinnikinnick Crk CA (Boone Co), 21 Jan (*EWW:ph); Ft Sheridan (Lake Co), 26 Dec (WSG, AR, GAW, CLW); Fermi, 26 Feb (DSa); HennepinL, 8 Dec (DFS); *Adams*, 14 Jan (PJR, AMR); St. Joseph (Champaign Co), 17 Dec (MPW).

Le Conte's Sparrow
MC: 12, PrRdg-J, 6 Feb (CLH); 7, ClintonL, 18 Dec (SDB, GSL:ph, RK:ph); 6, *Richland*, 9 Jan (CLH); 5, LShel-M, 2 Jan (SDB, GSL:ph, PAM, RK:ph); 5, RendL, 17 Dec (KAM); 5, UCCA, 29 Dec (SDB, PAM). **Others**: PRKWA (3), 24 Dec (TJD); Crawford Co CA (Crawford Co) (2), 28 Dec (CLH); Ark (2), 28 Feb (CLH); Ft Sheridan (Lake Co), 26 Dec (WSG, AR, GAW, CLW); Weaver Pk, Champaign, 8 Jan

(GSL); RamseyL SP (Fayette Co), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); HL, 17 Dec< (FRH); Lost Creek (Clinton Co), 27 Feb (CLH); PrRdg-M, 13 Feb (CLH); Flag Pond (Clay Co), 30 Jan (CLH); *Edwards*, 19-20 Feb (RES); KinkL, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); HLCA, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM).

Fox Sparrow

MC: 16, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 8, PRKWA, 8 Jan (TJD); 8, Ark, 27 Dec (KJM); 6, *Pulaski*, 28 Dec (JAS, JlN). **Others**: RendL-F (5), 17 Dec (DMK); Hidden Lake FP (DuPage Co) (4), 26 Jan (PAM, AFS); CarlL-C (4), 11 Feb (DMK); Sam Parr SF&WA (Jasper Co) (3), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); UCCA (3 & 3), 29 Dec (KJM & SDB, PAM resp; different birds); *Pope* (3), 30 Jan (KAM); Oakhurst FP (Kane Co) (2), 10 Jan (VL); *Cook* (2), 16 Dec (CBT); LCal (2), 17 Dec (WJM, CDH); KSRA (2), 1 Jan (PAM); Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co), 21 Jan (BJS).

Song Sparrow

MC: 151, *Union*, 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); 76, QC, 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.); 63, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (KJM); 19, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); 18, LShel-M, 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); 12, ClintonL, 18 Dec (MEF). **Others**: RendL (30), 17 Dec (KAM); CarlL-C (30), 12 Feb (DMK); *Jackson* (20), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); *LaSalle* (15), 18 Dec (BC, DJS); *Whiteside & Lee* (15), 24 Dec (KJM, DA, DHh); LCal (14), 17 Dec (WJM, SBB, CDH); *Rock Island* (13), 26 Dec (KJM, CAT, m.ob.); *Woodford* (11), 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); RamseyL SP (Fayette Co) (10), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); *se Stephenson & sw Winnebago* (9), 19 Feb (SDB); LCal (7), 15 Jan (WJM); Ft Sheridan (Lake Co) (5), 26 Dec (WSG, AR, GAW, CLW); *Carroll & Whiteside* (5), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); Batavia (Kane Co) (5), 17 Dec (EES); Volo Bog SNA (Lake Co) (4), 8 Jan (JSS); Oakhurst FP (Kane Co) (4), 6 Jan (AA).

Lincoln's Sparrow

MC: 3, QC, 18 Dec (*BLB, CB, MBr). **Others**: UCCA (2), 29 Dec (*KJM); *Alexander*, 28 Dec (*KJM).

Swamp Sparrow

MC: 167, *Union*, 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); 20, QC, 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.); 16, CarlL-C, 4 Dec (DMK); 13, Volo Bog SNA (Lake Co), 8 Jan (JSS); 11, ClintonL, 18 Dec (MEF); 10, Chi, 25 Dec (KJM, JRG, m.ob.). **Others**: RendL (15), 25 Jan (KAM); *Alexander* (12), 28 Dec (KJM); RamseyL SP (Fayette Co) (10), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); *Jasper* (9), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Carroll* (7), 20 Dec (EA, RN, m.ob.); *Whiteside & Lee* (6), 24 Dec (KJM, DA, DHh).

White-throated Sparrow

MC: 275, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM), 174, *Union*, 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); 25, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); 13, *LaSalle*, 18 Dec (BC, DJS); 10, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.). **Others**: *Perry* (94), 27 Dec (KJM); PRKWA (65), 8 Jan (TJD); *Jackson* (51), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); CarlL-C (40), 21 Dec (DMK); *Jasper* (37), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); Chi (Grant Pk) (34), 28 Dec (DFS); RendL-F (30), 17 Dec (DMK); MeadbrkPk (18), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); Spfld (14), 18 Dec (HDB); RamseyL SP (Fayette Co) (10), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK).

Harris's Sparrow

Chi (Millennium Pk), 23 Dec (RDH).

White-crowned Sparrow

MC: 90, SouthFarms, 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); 30, RamseyL SP (Fayette Co), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); 25, *Jackson*, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); 11, *DuPage*, 30 Jan (JAS); 7, LCal, 16 Dec (WJM); 7, *Mercer*, 3 Jan (KJM, MBr). **Others**: CarlL-F (20), 22 Jan (DMK); RendL (6), 17 Dec (KAM); Springbrook Golf Course (DuPage Co) (5), 20 Dec (JAS); LTFP (5), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr).

Immature male Indigo Bunting. Carlyle Lake, Fayette County. 7 January 2012. Photo by Dan Kassebaum.

LeConte's Sparrow. Clinton Lake State Recreation Area, DeWitt County. 18 December 2011. Photo by Rob Kanter.

Dark-eyed Junco

MC: 668, QC, 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.); 318, *Whiteside & Lee*, 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); 300, CarlL-C, 22 Jan (DMK); 224, *Jackson*, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); 216, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); 128, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE). **Others**: *Rock Island* (285), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (241), 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); *Carroll & Whiteside* (154), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); RamseyL SP (Fayette Co) (150), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); RendL-F (150), 17 Dec (DMK); *Alexander* (110), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); *LaSalle* (104), 18 Dec (BC, DJS); *Henry* (99), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); *Mercer & Knox* (99), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); Beaverville Twp (Iroquois Co) (72), 1 Jan (JBH); *Union* (72), 29 Dec (KJM); *Perry & Randolph* (63), 27 Dec (KJM); SRSF (50), 29 Jan (KAM); Nachusa (47), 18 Dec (EWW); Oakhurst FP (Kane Co) (46), 6 Jan (AA). **Other forms**: "Oregon" - Bushnell (McDonough Co) (**6**), 4 Feb (LLH); Forreston (Ogle Co) (@ feeder), 19 Jan (ASt).

Scarlet Tanager

Richland Grove Twp (Mercer Co) (basic plum ♂), 28 Dec – 16 Jan (Jim Andrews:ph). Eating black oil sunflower seed at rural yard feeder. 1st Illinois winter record. Five previous published November records for Illinois, as late as 25 Nov, 1995.

Northern Cardinal

MC: 334, *Alexander*, 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); 222, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 192, *Rock Island*, 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); 186, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM, m.ob.); 176, MRB, 13 Feb (CD, PD); 78, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE). **Others**: *Whiteside & Lee* (146), 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); *Union* (109), 29 Dec (KJM); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (100), 22 Dec (EA, RN, m.ob.); *Carroll & Whiteside* (97), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); *Perry & Randolph* (95), 27 Dec (KJM); RamseyL SP (Fayette Co) (80), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); *Pulaski* (77), 28 Dec (JAS, JlN); Urbana (62), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); CarlL-C (60), 21 Dec (DMK); *Jasper* (53), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); RendL-F (49), 17 Dec (DMK); Batavia (Kane Co) (40), 17 Dec (EES); LShel-M (40), 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK).

Male Scarlet Tanager, first Illinois winter record. Richland Grove Township, Mercer County. 28 December 2011. Photo by Jim Andrews.

Indigo Bunting

Chi (Planetarium) (imm), 25 Dec (DBJ, AFS); MermetL (1 & **3** & **3**), 30 Dec & **30 Jan** & **5 Feb** (fide RSR & *KAM:ph & FKB resp); CarlL-F (imm ♂), **7 Jan** (*DMK:ph).

Dickcissel

McDonough, **5 Jan-29 Feb** (*LLH:ph); Metropolis (Massac Co) (2), 30 Dec (RSR, SJ).

Red-winged Blackbird

MC: 30,000, RendL-F, 17 Dec (DMK); 24,200, Ark, 27 Dec (KJM); 14,000, CarlL-C, 26 Feb (DMK); 12,356, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 3,000, *LaSalle*, 1 Jan (BC); 127, LCal, 17 Dec (WJM, MLB, SBB, CDH). **Others**: *Pulaski* (3,300), 28 Dec (JAS, JIN); *Jasper* (645), 23 Dec (JWW, SDB, et al.); *Alexander* (237), 28 Dec (KJM); UCCA (130 & 129), 29 Dec (KJM & SDB, PAM resp; different birds); OakBot (79), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); COLSP (72 spring migrants, all ♂), 19 Feb (JSS); SouthFarms (27), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); GreenR (23), 24 Dec (KJM); L&D 13 (Whiteside Co) (15), 17 Feb (ASt); *Carroll* (11), 20 Dec (EA, RN, m.ob.); LCal (8), 15 Jan (WJM); ClintonL (8), 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); BraidwoodL (Will Co) (6), 8 Jan (JBH); LShel-M (5), 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); IBSP (4), 2 Feb> (EWW); Ridott Twp (Stephenson Co) (3♂), 19 Feb (SDB); *Mercer* (3), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr).

Eastern Meadowlark

MC: 154, *Jasper*, 23 Dec (JWW, SDB et al.); 61, *Pulaski*, 28 Dec (JAS, JIN); 50, *Adams*, 14 Jan (PJR, AMR); 40, RamseyL SP (Fayette Co), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); 30, CarlL-C, 21 Dec (DMK); 14, Beaverville Twp (Iroquois Co), 1 Jan (JBH); 6, *Jo Daviess*, 28 Jan (DTW). **Others**: *Massac* (51), 30 Dec (JAS); UCCA (24), 29 Dec (KJM); Allin Twp (McLean Co) (4), 15 Jan (APC, GHr); PRKWA (3), 4 Feb (KAM); RendL-F (3), 17 Dec (DMK); Ark (3), 27 Dec (KJM); *Alexander* (3), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); Urbana (2), 29 Jan (DLT); RollinsSav, 7 & 11 Jan (MFk & AFS resp); Springbrook Pra FP (DuPage Co), 29 Jan (JLS); Evanston (Cook Co), 29 Feb (MMC); HeideckeL (Grundy Co) (♪♂), 22 Feb (REF et al.); ClintonL (♪♂), 19 Feb (GSL).

Western Meadowlark

MC: **20**, UCCA, 29 Dec (*KJM). **Others**: CarlL-C (2), 4 Dec (DMK).

Rusty Blackbird

MC: **4,210**, *Perry*, 27 Dec (KJM); 152, *Lawrence & Crawford*, 7 Jan (CLH); 135, RendL, 17 Dec (KAM). **Others**: *Alexander* (70 & 69), 28 Dec (KJM & SDB, PAM resp); *Richland* (5), 26 Feb (CLH); UCCA (46), 29 Dec (KJM); OakBot (43), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); CarlL-C (40), 11,26 Feb (DMK); *Richland & Clay* (23), 30 Jan (CLH); *Wayne* (20), 6 Jan (CLH); *Edwards* (18), 4 Jan (RES); *Madison* (10), 15 Dec (KAM); MermetL (10), 30 Jan (KAM); SouthFarms (Forestry) (6), 9 Jan (DLT); Aroma Park (Kankakee Co) (4), 21 Feb (JBH). Much more abundant and widespread this winter, especially throughout the south.

Brewer's Blackbird

MC: 60, *Madison*, 13-15 Dec (KAM). **Others**: Vance Twp (Vermilion Co) (2♂), 13 Jan (JOS); Cutler (Perry Co) (♀), 27 Dec (KJM); OakBot, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ).

Common Grackle

MC: 70,000, RendL-F, 17 Dec (DMK); 37,800, *Pulaski*, 28 Dec (JAS, JIN); 30,000, Oglesby (LaSalle Co), 8 Dec (DFS); 12,000, CarlL-C, 26 Feb (DMK); 38, QC, 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.). **Others**: Ark (11,665), 27 Dec (KJM, JIN, JAS); *Alexander* (787), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Jasper* (150), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); ClintonL SRA (Mascoutin Access, DeWitt Co) (30), 21 Jan (GSL); OakBot (21), 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); *McDonough* (7), 16 Dec (LLH); ClintonL (4), 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); New Windsor (Mercer Co) (2), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); Kankakee (2), 13 Jan (JBH).

Brown-headed Cowbird

MC: 3,000, CarlL-C, 20 Feb (DMK); 2,460, *Perry*, 27 Dec (KJM); 501, *Rock Island*, 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); 117, *Whiteside & Lee*, 24 Dec (DA, DHh, m.ob.); 80, *Fulton*, 8 Jan (LLH). **Others**: *Jasper* (519), 23 Dec (JWW, SDB et al.); StarvedRock (56), 21 Jan (ND); *Kendall* (50 w/ EUST flock), 1 Jan (DFS); *Grundy* (30 w/EUST flock), 1 Jan (DFS); SouthFarms (20), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); Ridott Twp (Stephenson Co) (15), 9 Feb (SDB); QC (15), 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.); Colona (Henry Co.) (12), 22 Jan (EWW); VandaliaL (Fayette Co) (10), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); *Alexander* (8), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Marshall* (6), 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); UCCA (6), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM).

Baltimore Oriole

Washington (Tazewell Co) (ad ♂ eating homemade peanut butter suet, blueberry jam & orange slices at yard feeders), 5-7 Jan (*EC:ph; vid) "bird captured and later died in rehabilitation @ U of I"; SouthFarms (Forestry) (1st winter ♂), 8-10 Jan (SR:ph, DLT, EJC et al.);

Purple Finch

MC: 38, LTFP, 4 Jan (KJM, MBr); 31, Middlefork SF&WA (Vermilion Co), 1 Jan (JOS, CCC); 28, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (KJM, SBH, MBr, LCM); 19, *Whiteside & Lee*, 24 Dec (KJM, AT, ET); 12, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); 11, Ark, 27 Dec (KJM); 3, UCCA, 29 Dec (KJM). **Others**: Sand Ridge SF (Mason Co) (30), 29 Dec (TWd, CDn); *Putnam* (12), 25 Feb (BC); *Carroll* (11), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr); QC (10), 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.); Elsen's Hill FP (DuPage Co) (9), 31 Jan (PAM, AFS); MArb (8), 26 Jan (PAM, AFS); *Rock Island* (7), 26 Dec (KJM, CAT); SouthFarms (5), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); ClintonL (4), 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); Van Patten Wds FP (Lake Co) (3), 26 Feb (JSS); MArb (3), 31 Dec (AA); MiddleforkR areas (Vermilion Co) (3), 1 Jan (MML); Kinnikinnick Crk CA

Male Red Crossbill. Greenwood Cemetery, Rockford, Winnebago County. 15 January 2012.

Female Red-Crossbill. Greenwood Cemetery, Rockford, Winnebago County. 16 December 2011. Photos by John Longhenry.

Adult male Baltimore Oriole. Washington, Tazewell County. 7 January 2012. Photo by Betsy Christison.

1st year female Baltimore Oriole. University of Illinois Forestry, Champaign County. 8 January 2012. Photo by Sarah Roper.

(Boone Co) (2), 8 Dec (AFS, APS); PRKWA (2), 12 Feb (TJD); RendL (2), 17 Dec (KAM); *Alexander* (2), 28 Dec (KJM).

House Finch

MC: 300, *DuPage*, 6 Jan (JAS); 86, QC, 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.); 52, *White*, 12 Dec (SS); 50, Oakhurst FP (Kane Co), 6 Jan (AA); 45, CarlL, 27 Dec (KAM); 30, Danville (Vermilion Co), 1 Jan (BS, JR); 24, SRSF, 8 Feb (RGB, SNB); 13, *Perry*, 27 Dec (KJM). **Others**: KankakeeR SP (Kankakee Co) (58), 10 Jan (JBH); *Winnebago & Stephenson* (47), 21 Dec (SDB); Lost Nation (Ogle Co) (47), 18 Dec (EWW); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (46), 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); *Woodford* (34), 13 Jan (MEF); MidSav (33), 6 Jan (JSS); *Whiteside & Lee* (32), 24 Dec (DA, DHh, m.ob.); LCal (31), 17 Dec (WJM, MLB, SBB, CDH); Fermi (30), 8 Jan (PWb); Matthiessen SP (LaSalle Co) (25), 4 Feb (BC); Batavia (Kane Co) (21), 17 Dec (EES); *Mercer* (20), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); LShel-M (18), 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); *Carroll* (11), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); *Union* (11), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); RamseyL SP (Fayette Co) (10), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK).

Red Crossbill

MC: 26, 25 & 22, Rckfd (Greenwood Cem), 27 & 15 Jan & 28 Dec (DTW & JL:ph & MAM, APS resp); 22, UCCA, 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); 8, Sand Ridge SF (Mason Co), 29 Dec (TWd, CDn). **Others**: RockCut (3), 20 Dec (MJB); AndalSl (2), 26 Dec (*KJM, CAT); Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co), 23 Dec (EWW); Lowell Pk (Lee Co), 17-18 Dec (EWW, DHh); Chi (Jarvis Bird Sanctuary), 31 Dec (JIE, NG et al.); *Mercer*, 3 Jan (*KJM, MBr).

White-winged Crossbill

MC: 40-45, Volo Bog SNA (Lake Co) (feeding on tamarack cones), 5-9 Feb (SI et al., BSh); 45 & 25 & 16, MArb, 2 Jan & 5 Feb (UWG & MMC resp); 20, Sterling (Riverside Cem, Whiteside Co), 5 Jan (DHh). **Others**: Anna Page FP (Rckfd) (16 feeding on hemlocks), 1 Feb (DTW); Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co) (15 & 12), 5 Feb & 22 Dec (BJS, JSS & EWW resp); Van Patten Woods FP (Lake Co) (8), 22 Dec (BJS); Evanston (Cook Co) (8), 8 Feb (MMC); Rckfd (Greenwood Cem) (6), 11 Dec (DTW, BCW, BJS, JL:ph et al.); RockCut ("flock"), 7 Dec (ASt); KArb (6), 23 Feb (DTW, BCW); Afton FP (DeKalb Co) ("small flock"), 7 Jan (AA, YJ); Wilmette (Cook Co) (3+), 1 Jan (fide DFS:ph); Chi (Oakridge Cem) (3), 29 Jan (DFS); Woodstock (McHenry Co) (♂&♀), 6-18 Feb (LPp:ph); Urbana (2 @ 2 sites incl ♪♂), 5 Feb (GSL); IBSP (So. Unit), 1 Jan (CLW); Wheaton (DuPage Co) (drinking @ yard bird bath), 19 Feb (fide EES).

White-winged Crossbill.
Woodstock, McHenry County.
18 February 2012.
Photo by Linda Popp.

Common Redpoll

MC: 115, CBG (feeding on birch catkins & alders later in Feb), 16 Jan (MC); Schaumburg (Cook Co) (80 & 30-45+), 17 & 14-21 Feb (EG:ph & SAC:ph resp); 48, ShabL (feeding on birch catkins), 5-6 Jan (DTW & DAL:ph); 45, Ridott Twp (Stephenson Co) (feeding in weedy field), 6 Jan (SDB); 11, LTFP, 4 Jan (*KJM, MBr); 6, *Mercer*, 3 Jan (CDM, JLM). **Others**: KArb (40; feeding on birch catkins), 4-14 Jan (DTW, JL:ph, MKR:ph); Naperville Twp (DuPage Co) (40), 31 Jan (AA); Rutland Twp (Kane Co) (25 in alders), 9 Jan (JJD); Rckfd (Greenwood Cem) (20; feeding in larch), 7 Jan (DBJ); Afton FP (DeKalb Co) (20 & 7), 10 Jan & 26 Feb (ASh & NB resp); Binnie FP (Kane Co) (20; feeding in alders), 5 Jan (SAC); Chi (Jardine Water Filtration Plant) (20), 5 Jan (SJH); Springbrook Pra FP (DuPage Co) (16 feeding on alders), 29 Jan (JLS); Chi (yard @ nyger feeders) (2-7), 28 Jan – 3 Feb (DSh); Mackinaw SF&WA (6), 28 Jan (MJW); HomerL FP (Champaign Co) (6 feeding in sweet gums), 5 Feb (GSL); Seward Twp (Winnebago Twp) (5; feeding in a weedy field), 6 Jan (SDB); Yorkville (Kendall Co) (4 @ feeders), 17 Jan (LG); Zion (Lake Co) (3), 20 Jan (EWW); Montrose (3), 2 Jan (ND); Big Rock (Kane Co) (2; @ nyger seed feeder), 6 Jan (JH); Chi (No. Pond) (2), 5 Jan (JIN); SouthFarms (Forestry) (2), 7 Jan (MML); Genoa (DeKalb Co) (2 & 7), 9 Dec - 22 Jan & 2 Feb resp (KML); Chi (Jarvis Bird Sanctuary) (2), 7 Jan (KH); Ryerson CA (Lake Co) (1-2 @ nyger feeder), 11-28 Jan (AFS, BJS); Van Patten Wds FP (Lake Co), 5 Feb (JSS); Forreston (Ogle Co) (@ nyger feeder), 5 Jan – 4 Feb (ASt); DeKalb, 1 Dec (DAL); Oakhurst FP (Kane Co), 6 Jan (AA); Oak Park (Cook Co), 1 Feb (EG); QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM); Bureau Junction (Bureau Co), 29 Dec (DFS); Chann, 7 Jan (KAM); Sherwood Youth Camp (Knox Co), 11 Dec (MJB); ClintonL, 8 Jan (EWW).

Common Redpoll. Chicago Botanic Garden, Cook County. 22 January 2012. Photo by Lee Marin.

Pine Siskin

MC: 79, CBG, 15 Dec (AFS); 60, Rckfd (Greenwood Cem), 10-11 Dec (JL, DTW et al.); 60, MArb, 31 Dec (AA); 34, ClintonL, 18 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); 5, Belleville (St. Clair Co), 28 Feb (TJD). **Others**: Lost Nation (Ogle Co) (53), 18 Dec (EWW); Genoa (DeKalb Co) (45), 3 Dec (KML); Elburn FP (Kane Co) (42), 14 Jan (SAC); Mundelein (Lake Co) (40 & 21), 9 Dec & 6 Feb (SDB); HiddenL FP (DuPage Co) (32), 20 Jan (JC); KArb (31), 21 Jan (EWW); DeKalb (DeKalb Co) (29), 24 Jan (RF); Shorewood (Will Co) (29), 21 Feb (JLn); Urbana (Carle Pk) (20), 29 Jan (RBr); Chi (Oakridge Cem) (17), 29 Jan (DFS); QC (16), 7 Dec (KJM); Spfld (15), 18 Dec (HDB); Zion (Lake Co) (13), 23 Jan (EWW); Gurnee (Lake Co) (12; feeders), 7 Jan (JSS); Oakhurst FP (Kane Co) (12), 6 Jan (AA); WinthropH (11), 20 Jan (EWW); Urbana (10), 8 Jan (GSL); Forreston (Ogle Co) (8 @ feeders), 8 Jan – 1 Feb (ASt); Glenview (Cook Co) (7), 23 Dec (WSG, DP); Warrenville (DuPage Co) (6), 12 Dec (MRB); Freeport (Stephenson Co) (5), 21 Jan (EWW); Seward Twp (Winnebago Co) (5), 21 Dec (SDB); Van Patten Wds FP (Lake Co) (4), 5 Feb (JSS); *Rock Island* (4), 22 Dec (KJM, LB); LTFP (4), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr); CarlL-C (2), 21 Dec (DMK); Ark, 27 Dec (KJM).

American Goldfinch

MC: 242, LShel-M, 2 Jan (SDB, GSL, PAM, RK); 211, Sam Parr SF&WA (Jasper Co), 23 Dec (SDB, PAM); 200, CarlL-C, 20 Feb (DMK); 113, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 95, Urbana, 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); 83, *Whiteside & Rock Island*, 22 Dec (EA, RN, m.ob.); 83, *Jackson*, 1 Jan (KJM, VLg, SJ); 60, *Woodford*, 31 Dec (KJM, TRE). **Others**: Beaverville Twp (Iroquois Co) (78), 1 Jan (JBH); *Whiteside & Lee* (74), 24 Dec (KJM, m.ob.); CBG (65), 15 Dec (AFS); *Rock Island* (65), 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); *Union* (60), 29 Dec (SDB, PAM); MArb (52), 18 Dec (RAM, ALM, JPL); Urbana (50 eating sweet gum ball seeds), 8 Jan (GSL); LostMound (46), 16 Dec (SDB, DTW); *Alexander* (42), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); *Mercer* (41), 15 Dec (TM, JSg, DFh, m.ob.); Gurnee (Lake Co) (40; feeders), 7 Jan (JSS); RendL-F (26), 17 Dec (DMK); Zion (Lake Co) (25),

20 Jan (EWW); ClintonL (22), 18 Dec (MEF); *Henry* (18), 10 Dec (KJM); *Perry* (18), 27 Dec (KJM); Batavia (Kane Co) (17), 17 Dec (EES); *Carroll* (14), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.).

Evening Grosbeak

Durand (Winnebago Co), 17 Dec (BGr).

House Sparrow

MC: 943, QC, 18 Dec (KJM, SBH, CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 682, *Rock Island*, 4 Jan (KJM, MBr, m.ob.); 273, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 200, *Mercer & Knox*, 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); 200, VandaliaL (Fayette Co), 15 Jan (TAM, DMK); 200, CarlL-C, 5,11 Feb (DMK). **Others**: LCal (445), 17 Dec (WJM, JPk, m.ob.); *Carroll & Whiteside* (379), 20 Dec (KJM, DA, MBr, m.ob.); *Whiteside & Lee* (322), 24 Dec (AT, ET, m.ob.); *Whiteside & Rock Island* (249), 22 Dec (KJM, LB, m.ob.); *LaSalle* (167), 18 Dec (BC, DJS); *Woodford* (158), 31 Dec (KJM, TRE); *Henry* (149), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); *Alexander* (142), 28 Dec (SDB, PAM); Urbana (120), 17 Dec (SDB, GSL, RK); *Knox* (100), 10 Dec (KJM).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Orland Park, Cook County. 17 February 2012. Photo by Ron Blazek.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

MC: **587**, *Mercer*, 15 Dec (CDM, JLM, m.ob.); 99, *Rock Island*, 26 Dec (KJM, CAT, m.ob.); 77, *Whiteside & Rock Island*, 22 Dec (*KJM, LB, *EA, RN); 60, *Mercer & Knox*, 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); 3, *Madison*, 2 Jan (KAM). **Others**: Bushnell (McDonough Co) (48), 19 Jan (LLH); *Henry* (33), 3 Jan (KJM, MBr); QC (32), 18 Dec (BLB, CB, MBr, m.ob.); Cordova (Rock Island Co), 28 Jan (KML:ph et al.); *Whiteside* (12), 24 Dec (*DA, DHh); *Peoria*, 18 Dec (THr); Funks Grove (Sugar Grove NC, McLean Co) (5), 14 Jan (BMy:ph); Worth Twp (Woodford Co), 7 Jan (PF); CarlL (2), 27 Dec (KAM); Forreston (Ogle Co) (@ feeder), 8-19 Jan (ASt); **Orland Park (Cook Co)**, 6-25 Feb (RBk:ph, WSS, DBJ, AFS et al.).

Exotic / Released Species

Whooping Crane

ArcolaM (Douglas Co) (3 w/one SACR), 27 Feb (EGn); Marion (3), 7 Feb (RD); Mt. Erie Twp (Wayne Co) (2), 30 Dec-29 Feb (RES, CLH) "breeding pair numbers 9-03 and 3-04"; CarlL-F (imm), 5-6 & 9 Feb (BHl).

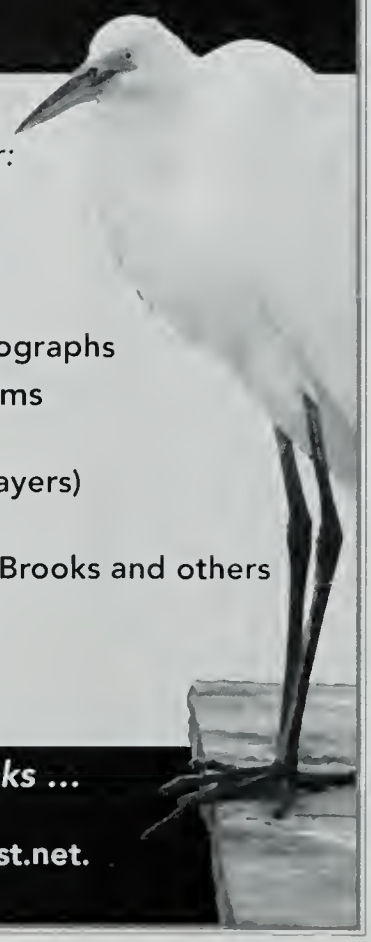
Kelly J. McKay
Buffalo Research and Monitoring Center
P.O. Box 452, Hampton, Il 61256
kellyjmckay@aol.com

Steven D. Bailey
967 Braeburn Road
Mundelein, IL 60060
sdbailey@illinois.edu

The
12th Annual Birding Blitz of Southernmost Illinois
Saturday, April 27th, 2013

Explore the 11 southernmost counties of Illinois in this fun competition to see and hear the most species of birds in 24-hours; raise donations for habitat conservation.
For details and registration forms visit **www.birdingblitz.org**
It's a Challenge!

Nature-related Books, Art Works and Crafts for Sale



Visit DMB Books at naturebooksandart.com for:

- Illinois bird books
- Bird and birding books
- Birds of North America
  Individual Species Monographs
- Nature related craft items
- Bird card sets
  (Church and Dwight; Players)
- Matted bird prints
  by Louis Fuertes, Allan Brooks and others
- Louis Agassiz Fuertes
  Portfolio of Texas Birds
- Nature related books

We buy used nature books ...
e-mail a list or contact us at:
naturebooksandart@comcast.net.
Denis Bohm, DMB Books

Support **Meadowlark**
Advertise Here!!
~ business card size ads ~
only $15 per issue

The Illinois Ornithological Society accepts pertinent ads for publishing in Meadowlark. The rates and rules are as follows:

Rates PER ISSUE:
$15 one-eighth page or equivalent of one business size card; $30 one quarter page or equivalent of two business size cards; $60 half page.
We reserve the right to accept or deny any ad, and to limit the space set aside for ads, which will be placed at the back of the journal.

Due dates:
No. 1- Summer: February 1; No. 2 - Fall: May 1; No, 3 - Winter: August 1; No. 4 - Spring: November 1

Required materials:
Camera-ready copy and check payable to IOS should be sent to: Sheryl De Vore, 967 Bracburn Road, Mundelein, IL 60060.

Send Seasonal Reports to:

Winter Field Notes

Due by 7 March (1 Dec through 28 Feb)
Send to: Kelly McKay
420 First Ave., PO Box 452, Hampton, IL 61256-0452
E-mail: KellyJMcKay@aol.com

Spring Field Notes

Due by 7 June (1 Mar through 31 May)
Send to: Geoffrey Williamson
4046 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60613
E-mail: geoffrey.williamson@comcast.net

Breeding Season Field Notes

Due by 7 August (1 June through 31 July)
Send to: Steven D. Bailey
967 Braeburn Road, Mundelein, IL 60060
E-mail: sdbailey@mail.inhs.uiuc.edu

Fall Season Field Notes

Due by 7 December (1 Aug through 30 Nov)
Send to: David B. Johnson
504 Crown Point Drive
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
Email address: djohnsoda@comcast.net

Submission Information

- We welcome manuscripts, photographs, and illustrations for possible publication in Meadowlark.
- Article topics include unusual bird sightings and nesting accounts, technical papers on bird research, and other articles such as bird finding guides and field identification tips. Joy of birding articles will be considered.
- Manuscripts should be typewritten or computer-generated, double spaced and on only one side of numbered pages. Please send two copies of your manuscript and make sure you keep another for yourself.
- We require a computer disc in Word or Word Perfect or an electronic file.
- We prefer clear black and white or color print photographs. Digital or electronic files (200-300 dpi.) are also acceptable.
- Include name, address, and day and night time phone numbers. Other pertinent information about your qualifications and background is also helpful.
- We reserve the right to review and edit articles according to style, grammar, accuracy, and readability.

Send articles, photographs, illustrations & inquiries to:

Sheryl De Vore, Chief Editor
967 Braeburn, Mundelein, IL 60060
e-mail address: sheryl.devore@comcast.net

DUCK STAMPS
(1934-2008)
• Duck Stamps •
plus sheetlets of special issue, U.S. flora and fauna stamps and most U.S. souvenir sheets
Vernon Kleen
217-787-3515
1825 Clearview Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
Email: vkleen@comcast.net
The Best Prices – The Best Quality

The Birding Blitz Of Southernmost Illinois
April 27, 2013
Take the Challenge!
Start time: 2:30 a.m.
Dark + Early
Biking down IL Rt. 127
with a half dozen or more
Whip-poor-wills singing
from every direction.
Total hours bike birding: 17
We were just getting onto the Clear Creek Levee north of IL Rt. 146 when the wind started picking up from the south. Had about 8 miles of levee to ride, almost due south straight into the wind. At first it wasn't so bad but the wind got stronger and stronger. The sustained winds were something like 25 to 30 mph with gusts up to 50mph.
Critical is a good supply of Jelly Bellies and drinking water cached along the route.
Best bird of the day:
6 White-faced Ibises!
www.birdingblitz.org
Field Checklist of ILLINOIS BIRDS
IOS
ILLINOIS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Date 25 APRIL 2008
Where UNION COUNTY, IL
Observers TEAM C.O.S. CHRIS + GEOFF Williamson
Notes MUSCLE-POWERED
MILES BIKED -50
Total Species 119
The Southern Illinois Audubon Society, sponsor of the Birding Blitz, sends our CONGRATULATIONS to GEOFF WILLIAMSON, winner of the 2013 ABA Ludlow Griscom Outstanding Contributions in Regional Ornithology Award

Meadowlark.
American Museum of Natural
History
Received on: 05-16-13
AMNH LIBRARY
100233379

Long-tailed Duck.

Gillson Park, Wilmette, Cook County.
26 December 2011.
Photo by Jackie Bowman.